

*The*  
**BULLETIN**  
*of the*  
**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**AUDUBON SOCIETY**



MAY 1954

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NUMBER 5

# MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

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# BULLETIN

OF THE

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Cover Illustration, YOUNG CROWS, Hal H. Harrison



*The photograph shows Governor Christian A. Herter signing the resolve proclaiming Audubon Week while members of the board and staff of the Massachusetts Audubon Society look on. From left to right: Seated, Mrs. John Richardson, of Milton, a director, and daughter of Mrs. Augustus Hemenway, the only living founder of the Massachusetts Audubon Society; Governor Herter; Judge Robert Walcott, President of the Society since 1925. Standing, C. Russell Mason, Executive Director; Mrs. William Van Grimes, Director of Public Relations; Rosario Mazzeo, Chairman of Public Relations Committee; Mrs. Donald C. Alexander, a director.*

### **Governor Herter Proclaims "Audubon Week"**

Audubon Week, observed for the past two years in Massachusetts early in May, was officially proclaimed for the week of May 2-8 this year by Governor Christian A. Herter. This proclamation is in recognition of the early work of the pioneer conservationist and wildlife illustrator John James Audubon, in whose name our Society was founded in 1896, with a program today reaching thousands of adults and children throughout the Commonwealth.

The 450 grade school classes in conservation and natural science conducted by Audubon teachers in 110 towns of Massachusetts and Rhode Island will observe Audubon Week in various ways, including nature walks and visits to wildlife sanctuaries. Approximately 125 Audubon field trips will be scheduled throughout the State on May 3 under skilled leadership, the five Audubon sanctuaries with resident directors will hold Open House on the same day, and there will be special programs on radio and television to encourage nature hobbies and conservation of natural resources. During this week, also, a series of noon walks will be scheduled in the Boston Public Garden, offering business people guidance in observing birds in the Garden.

The increasing demand for facts about wildlife and other natural resources has resulted in expanding the May observance from Audubon Day, inaugurated in 1944, to Audubon Week, and it affords an excellent opportunity to stress the recreational value of the out-of-doors, the proper use of our natural areas, and to call attention to the need for practical conservation activities.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*By His Excellency*

Christian A. Herter

*Governor*

## A PROCLAMATION

1954

In recognition of the work of conservationist John James Audubon, who was the first of the early pioneers to raise his voice urging the protection of wildlife, and also to stress all measures of protection and restoration for wildlife and its environment carried out by youth and adult groups bearing the Audubon name, and to encourage further interest in the outdoors in Massachusetts, a state where today 15,000 grade school children receive regular instruction during the school year through the Audubon course in conservation and natural science, and where, in the past decade, in the public school classes alone, over 100,000 boys and girls have been made aware of the need for conservation and the proper use of the outdoors for recreation and enjoyment, now, therefore, I, Christian A. Herter, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the first week of May as

## Audubon Week

and I further urge our citizens, for their physical and mental well-being, to participate in so far as possible in the field trips and other activities planned for that week in the interest of conservation.

By His Excellency the Governor,

(Seal)

GIVEN at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-second day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and seventy-eighth.

(Signed) CHRISTIAN A. HERTER

EDWARD J. CRONIN,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

*God Save The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## The President's Page



A correspondent of the *Boston Herald* regrets the death of migrating birds caused by their striking against the illuminated towers of two of the recently built insurance company buildings in Boston. It is well that this bird mortality should be called to the attention of the public.

The lights in the buildings are pleasant additions — they give a cheerful touch to the city when seen from the surrounding hills — but during migrations, especially in bad weather, in rain, or in fog, they kill or maim a great many birds, just as do the first-class lighthouses along the coast. Some years ago William Brewster, Dr. Charles Townsend, and others of our bird lovers hereabout interested themselves in attempting to limit this destruction, and in Germany, Denmark, and Great Britain screens of string or wire greatly reduced, but did not entirely eliminate, the peril of the lights. Unfortunately, the storms which brought most misfortune to the birds were also apt to wreck the screens, and after a while the industry and interest of the lighthouse keepers petered out in many cases. No matter how cautiously birds may fly in fog, they seem by no means as cautious as our human navigators, and their delicate structure is not suited to collide with steel or concrete.

Lighthouses have caused great mortality among migrating birds in Europe, and in a few instances perches have been installed below the lights where bewildered birds can alight and rest, resulting in the probable saving of thousands of bird lives. One lighthouse keeper reported "there is not the slightest doubt that the perches are of great value in saving the lives of the birds during the migration, and it is now a very rare occurrence to pick up any dead birds," where previously they used to be collected by the basketful.

We must agree, of course, that it is vastly more important to save human life on the sea by means of high-powered lights than to save migrating birds. It is a pity that birds do not seem to have the facilities for detecting obstacles they cannot see which are possessed by bats. Apparently radar towers have not killed a great many birds, or, if they have done so, the news has not spread abroad. One of the most unnecessary high towers which has caused death to birds is the, to me, unsightly tower built on the summit of Greylock Mountain. Through the intercession of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the County Commissioners of Berkshire County have the illumination of this tower discontinued late each evening during the spring and fall migration. If the illumination on Mount Greylock were useful to aviation lines, its operation would be of importance, but, actually, it is deemed detrimental, since it is not on a regular flying route and has been a source of confusion to some aviators.

Let's urge the insurance companies to install perches below their tower lights. Letters asking help for night-migrating birds from persons insured by the companies should carry considerable weight.

Robert L. Walcott

## Muskeget Island-Its Gulls and Terns

By E. B. CHURCH, B. M. SHAUB, AND M. S. SHAUB\*



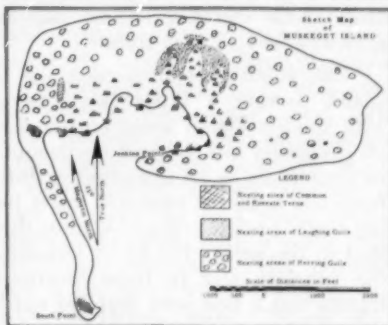
Although Muskeget Island is well known to residents of Nantucket and to those navigating in Nantucket Sound, the island is little more than a name to most persons. However, there is an exception, for a few of the more energetic ornithologists make an effort to reach this island periodically to study the changing composition of the tern and gull colonies. Muskeget is a low-lying, sandy, and treeless island situated about two miles northwest of Tuckernuck Island. The latter is at present about 500 yards northwest of the westernmost end, Smith Point, of Nantucket Island. (See "Muskeget Island — July, 1952," in the *Bulletin* for February, 1953.)

Because of the shoals, strong tide rips, and other hazards to small boat navigation, Muskeget is best reached by chartering a suitable motor boat operated by one familiar with the local water and shoal conditions. We were fortunate in securing the services of Captain James Clinton Andrews, President of the Nantucket Bird Club and owner of the comfortable thirty-foot cabin cruiser *Sans Souci* for making the fifteen mile trip from Nantucket harbor to Muskeget. He was eager to visit Muskeget again with us, as he had done at this time in 1952. We were also privileged to have his wife accompany us. She is the former Edith Folger and co-author with Ludlow Griscom of *Birds of Nantucket*. Her interest in going to the island was to band young gulls and terns.

Arriving at Muskeget, July 8, 1953, in a southwest wind, we found suitable anchorage in the protected bay between Jenkins Point and South Point.

Boats drawing three or more feet of water will find it necessary to anchor well offshore, as this small harbor in the last few years has become much shallower and now contains an abundant growth of eelgrass.

A study of the island in more detail than was possible last year showed that its outline, Figure 2, differed slightly from that indicated on the Tuckernuck Island U. S. G. S. topographic map of 1951. This was to be expected, as the waves which almost continuously break on its sandy shores together with the longshore currents cause a constant shifting of the sand. The topography of the island consists of many low ridges, which are never



2. Muskeget Island, 1953.

\* Contribution No. 13 from the Shaub Ornithological Research Station.

over twenty feet above sea level. These consist of sand dunes, which lack any marked orientation in the western section. In the northeastern part of the island they are more or less elongated northwest-southeast. The crests of the dunes have not been in all instances stabilized by vegetation. They are often bare and frequently eroded several feet in depth. The crests of the elevations are also used as observation spots by Herring Gulls, which contributes toward the partial elimination of vegetal growth and to the subsequent wind erosion of the sand, as shown in Figure 3.



3. Muskeget Vegetation.

grass. The latter is luxuriant in the foreground. In the interdunes swales there are patches of bayberry bushes and occasionally beach plums, both of which carried relatively small crops of fruits.

The Herring Gulls were nesting in large numbers throughout the beach grass — the nests being more abundant in the thinner grass — rather than in the poison ivy areas. A few well-constructed Herring Gull nests were seen in some of the larger open sand areas or swales, although in general these were avoided as nest sites by both species of gulls. Many of the nests contained eggs and/or young birds, although most of the young were hiding in the grass, in or around debris of all kinds, and also in the dilapidated boathouse. The young gulls ranged from those just hatched to a few about ready to fly. Most of the young were less than half grown as shown in Figure 1.

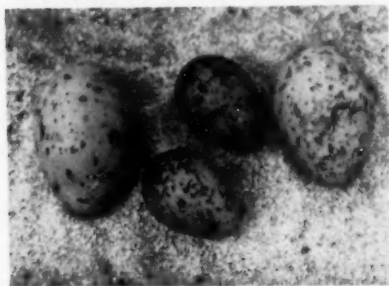
The south central portions of the island contain a fairly large swamp with smaller marsh areas on the sides, all elongated in a general north-south direction. Along the peripheries of the swamps there is an abundant growth of poison ivy which stands up in bush form to a height of twelve to thirty inches. In such ivy-grown areas the Laughing Gulls prefer to nest. Within these areas many little trails crisscross and lead to the nests. Flocks of Laughing Gulls rose up from the margins along the swamps, and in these locations many nests and eggs were observed. Rarely was a nest seen that did not have abundant shade of poison ivy.

There were many Laughing Gulls nesting on the northern periphery of the large swamp, but no young were noted in this area. In all instances of

relationships of density and type of vegetation to distribution of Herring and Laughing Gull colonies. The covering consists chiefly of beach grass, which varies greatly in abundance and height. Mixed with the grass is a sparse to luxuriant growth of poison ivy ranging in height from a few inches to three feet. It occurs chiefly as a low bush rather than as a vine. Only rarely was it bearing fruit. In Figure 3 the sand strip in the middle foreground is bordered with ivy followed by beach



4. Where the Terns Nest.



5. Eggs of Herring and Laughing Gulls.

The relative size of the Laughing Gull eggs and those of the Herring Gull is shown in Figure 5. A few chicks of the former were observed in the nests. Their appearance resembled that of the young terns but their coloration appeared to be more brownish and darker.

Our estimate of the total number of Laughing Gulls nesting on and/or inhabiting the island is of the order of fifteen hundred to two thousand individuals.

The northern periphery and eastern end of Muskeget are less interesting botanically than the marshy areas with their abundance of plants. The northern area contains sparse beach grass and the eastern section mainly beach grass, beach sandwort, sea rocket, and seaside goldenrod, with little poison ivy. Both of these areas provide suitable nesting sites for large numbers of Herring Gulls. The physiography of the eastern shore area continues to change yearly, with a recent sand spit making out several hundred feet eastward. The former curve of Jenkins Point has been largely eliminated with a straightening of the southeast shore line.

The terns are confined to South Point, which joins Muskeget at about the same position as shown on the topographic map and has, in general, maintained its former orientation. However, shifting sands have eliminated the western fresh-water pond. The point consists of a low asymmetrical ridge which extends down its length of approximately a mile. The steeper slope is along the west beach toward Muskeget Channel, while a gentle gradient slopes eastward. The northern half of the point is quite well covered with vegetation, mainly beach grass on the harbor side and clumps of seaside goldenrod, dusty miller, and

Laughing and Herring Gull nest locations we did not observe fighting for territory or injury of one species by the other. One small Laughing Gull colony was found outside the swamp area. This was located a little to the northeast of the position where South Point joins the island. As in the other Laughing Gull colonies, the nests were concealed in dense poison ivy.

In general there were three eggs in a nest, and these were mottled much like the tern eggs. In one instance a nest contained a mottled and a pale-blue egg.



6. Typical Tern Eggs.



7. Unusual Tern Eggs.



sparser beach grass on the western side. This habitat is used exclusively by the Herring Gulls. At the time of our visit, one could find scattered nests of these birds with eggs and half-grown chicks. The remaining part of the point is, in general, quite bare, with many indications of fairly recent erosion caused by high storm waves breaking over the crest of the higher west-side beach and then flowing eastward across the spit into the bay. This wave action is shown by the alignment of dead grass in the direction of flow. There is considerable variation in the coarseness of the beach material. In places there is a marked sorting, with a general increase in coarser pebbles along the west side.

About six hundred feet from the tip of South Point there is an area of about a quarter of an acre covered with a sparse growth of beach grass and numerous clumps of beach sandwort, sea rocket, seaside goldenrod, and beach pea. Southward, beyond this area, the point slopes gently to the crest of the beach near the water. Both the area with the beach grass and succulent plants and that of bare sand immediately to the south comprise nesting sites for a small colony of Common and Roseate Terns. The grassy area contained about fifty nests, of which half contained eggs. Many of these nests were well constructed and located in sheltered spots. Some nests were mere depressions in the sand. Along the south periphery of the grass plot and on the open sand there was a narrow zone which contained forty-five nests, most of which had eggs (see Figure 4). Some of these nests were built of seaweed (Figures 6 and 7), while others were in small concentrations of shells. Most of the eggs were of the characteristic olivaceous color with prominent mottling (Figure 6), while an occasional nest contained eggs of a uniform light greenish-blue color without markings (Figure 7).

Four dead terns, one a Roseate Tern carrying band No. 50-344789 (banded at Bird Island, Marion, Mass., July 9, 1951, by the Austin Ornithological Research Station), and one dead Laughing Gull were noted in the tern colony. In this nesting site no young terns were seen, which may indicate that the present nesting may be a replacement of nests washed away by high waves, the effects of which were mentioned above. The unfavorable location of the nests on South Point, especially those outside of the grass-covered area, makes them extremely vulnerable to southwest storms.

The behavior of the terns differed markedly from that noted at Tern Island, Chatham, where one is often struck by diving birds. Though the South Point flock of around five hundred rose into the air screaming at our approach, they did not fly low over us while we were on their nesting ground. This behavior may be partly explained by the small number of birds and by the absence of chicks, for their presence would very likely encourage more aggressiveness on the part of the parents.

Only one other small tern colony was noted. This was a small group of a few hundred birds at most along the east side of the point where it joins the island. Here one young was observed and banded by Mrs. Andrews. There are apparently two factors in the selection of the two restricted areas by the terns. As has been noted at Tern Island at Chatham, these birds prefer light vegetation; therefore South Point offers this better than do most parts of Muskeget. The presence of Herring Gulls on a large part of the island has probably forced the terns into these small areas for better protection, or the gulls may have avoided these areas as undesirable for nesting. (Perhaps the pressure from the gulls has not reached the degree where they require these areas.)



In contrasting the present with earlier observations at Muskeget, one may profit by reviewing the changing aspects of this island's bird population over the years, especially with regard to the Herring Gull, Laughing Gull, and Common and Roseate Terns.

An authoritative account of the birds of this island near the beginning of the century was given by Edward Howe Forbush in *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, Vol. I, p. 85. He states, "When I first visited Muskeget in 1908 with two companions, we were lost in wonder at the enormous number of its feathered inhabitants. As we approached the nesting grounds, we were soon in the midst of a veritable storm of darting, diving, sailing, fluttering, screaming terns, while high above our heads in the blue and cloudless sky floated innumerable black-headed gulls, their clear cries mingling with the harsher sound given out by the storming terns. Nests were there in thousands; but while those of the terns were usually quite open and uncovered on the sands, those of the gulls were more often made beneath the shelter of the high beach grass or that of umbrageous plants like the poison ivy . . ."

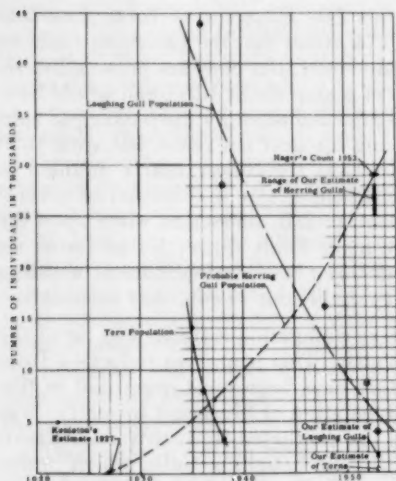
About a decade later, A. C. Bent, in his *Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns*, U.S.N.M. Bull. 113, p. 154, states that the Laughing Gulls on Muskeget Island "formerly bred here abundantly, but constant persecution reduced their numbers until they became very scarce about 1880, and would have been extirpated except for the protection afforded them by the passage of suitable laws . . . They increased slowly during the next ten years, but after 1890 their increase was more encouraging. In 1894 the colony nearly doubled in numbers, until, at the time of my last visit (in 1919) it consisted of several thousand pairs." Regarding the terns, Bent, p. 238, states that when upon the island "if we look up into the air we are made fairly dizzy; for as far as we can see, extending up into the deep blue sky, is a bewildering maze of whirling birds, flying in every direction and at varying heights in countless thousands."

Our search of the island revealed a tern population estimated to be of the order of five hundred at the time of our visit. This is a great reduction from Bent's "countless thousands." What factors have been most important in this change? Forbush, p. 84, states that the vegetation of Muskeget formerly "was very sparse; but within a few years this has increased in quality and luxuriance, making conditions more favorable for the Laughing Gulls, which prefer to hide their nests, and less so for the Common Terns which affect more open sandy land." He considers the development of rank vegetation to have been brought about by the increased fertility due to the occupation of the land by the birds. In this sense the terns may have, in part at least, been instrumental in bringing about an environment unfavorable to them.

It would be difficult to find an objection to Forbush's supposition that the increased fertility of this barren waste of sand was due to the occupation of many thousands of birds that probably consumed over one hundred tons of fish annually during the nesting season, to be scattered in part as excrement on the barren sands. From the accounts quoted above it appears that the luxuriant growth of grass was brought about in a relatively short time — say, five to ten decades. One may wonder why this growth of vegetation did not occur many hundreds of years previously, unless the terns and other sea birds are relatively newcomers to the island or severe storms periodically destroyed the vegetation to a greater or lesser degree, comparable to the destruction wrought by the recent hurricanes of 1938 and 1945.

When the early settlers reached Nantucket they found the island to be populated by Indians, and it is quite likely that their appetites for the gull and tern eggs were equal to or greater than those of the early fishermen whose egg collecting activities very greatly reduced the population of these birds. Consequently, it appears that Muskeget Island may have been an important nesting site for sea birds only in relatively recent times.

Data from Forbush, p. 74, show that between 1888, when a pair of Herring Gulls nested on Weepecket Island, and 1912, when a nest was found on a "neck" extending out into Edgartown Great Pond, a period of a quarter of a century, there were no known nestings of Herring Gulls along the coast and on the islands off Massachusetts. During the next decade small groups of nests were noted along the coast and near-by islands. In 1925 Forbush, p. 74, stated, "It is improbable that the Herring Gull can long maintain itself anywhere on the coast of southern New England. All habitable islands will be occupied sooner or later by 'summer people'; and the gulls on most of the islets that they now occupy cannot be protected from depredation of fishermen and collectors."



In 1927, Allan Keniston, *Bulletin, Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*, Vol. III, p. 105, after visiting Muskeget Island, stated, "Thousands of Laughing Gulls and Common and Roseate Terns nest here, and the colony of Herring Gulls has grown from nothing a few years ago to at least a hundred pairs today."

When one attempts to estimate the total number of individuals observed in segments of moving objects, he is not likely to find much assurance in his results unless they are supported by numerical data which represent a proportional part of the total number. In making an estimate of the number of Herring Gulls on Muskeget, we resorted to the use of the camera in arriving at an approximate figure. In

one photograph there were about 125 gulls visible in the sky as counted on the negative, and it is not unlikely that there were gulls sufficiently high to be out of range of being recorded on the film. The birds that rise from the ground form a more or less uniform hemispherical grouping over one's head. To cover this entire space with photographs, approximately fifteen exposures would be required to record all segments occupied by the birds about any one position. The birds seen on the ground in the illustration are not counted, as they would be in the air at another point of reckoning. On this basis one could locate about six or eight stations on the island about which there would be similar concentrations of gulls on the average. Hence one would arrive at an estimate of approximately 12,000 adults *on the island*. This, of course, does not include those away seeking food. It is not unreasonable to assume that, on the average, one of each pair that is incubating may be away fishing and that those which have young that are more than a week old may be away, on the average, more than sixty per cent of the time during the middle of the

day, depending on the age of the young. In this instance the young ranged in age from those just hatched to those about large enough to fly. In addition, the estimated ten per cent of non-nesting birds are probably absent from the island a large part of the time during daylight. A summation of these factors would yield an approximate estimate of from 25,000 to 28,000 adults stationed on Muskeget Island.

The past quarter century has witnessed a profound change in the ratio of the several avian populations on the island. Since Keniston's report, the numbers of Laughing Gulls and terns have decreased to a relatively small number, while the Herring Gulls have shown an enormous increase. These changes are indicated by the graphs, which were drawn from data supplied by Joseph Hagar, State Ornithologist of Massachusetts. Our estimates have been added to this illustration.

It appears that the conditions along the coast of eastern Massachusetts have been especially favorable for the Herring Gulls during the past two decades and, owing to their large size, they have gradually encroached upon the nesting terrains of the terns and Laughing Gulls and will continue to be masters of the desirable nesting areas along the New England coast as long as their food supply will support an increasing number of birds.

During the short period of about six hours on Muskeget Island we also observed scaup, cormorants, one Black Duck, several Song and Savannah Sparrows, numerous Red-winged Blackbirds, and a few Great Black-backed Gulls. We also noted two mice which are probably of the famous *Microtus breweri* species. A herd of about twenty Harbor Seals was seen on a shoal about three eighths of a mile to the west of the central part of South Point.

The future of Muskeget Island's bird population depends upon a number of factors. Geologically and meteorologically the island is not suitable for human habitation, even for summer residents. There appears no foreseen economic use of the island, and consequently it is probable that the tenancy of this area by the birds will not, in general, be seriously interfered with by human activities, except for government control projects of certain avian species.

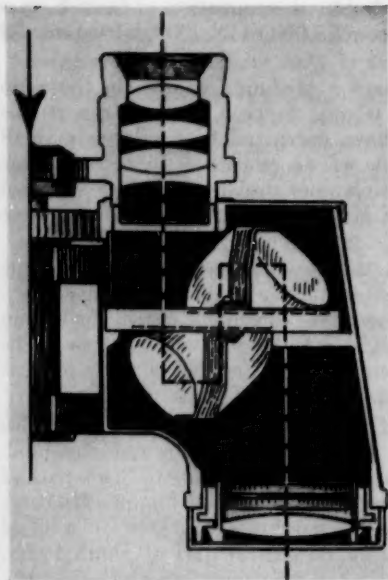
## Brookline Bird Club Trips

### Open to Members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| May 1, all day. Fay Estate and Vicinity. Mr. Sargent, Jefferson 2-1236-R.   | May 12 (6:30 A.M.) Boston Public Garden. Meet on Beacon Street side of the pond. Mr. Argue, KENmore 6-3604. |
| May 2 (Sunday afternoon). Harold Parker Forest. Mr. Wardwell, SToneham 6-2174-W.  | May 14 (6:00 A.M.) Boston Fenway. Meet at Rose Garden. Miss Wild, COmmonwealth 6-6053.                      |
| May 4 (evening). Horne Pond, Woburn. Mr. Heston, REading 2-2741.  | May 15, all day. Automobile trip in Essex County. Mr. Little, WALtham 5-4295-J.                             |
| May 5 (6:30 A.M.) Boston Public Garden. Miss Lawson, CApitol 7-5618.  | Afternoon, Devereux and Marblehead Neck. Mr. Tomfohrde, PRospect 6-1979.                                    |
| May 7 (6:00 A.M.) Boston Fenway. Miss Hanson, COmmonwealth 6-1595.  | May 22, all day. Automobile trip in Essex County.   |
| May 8, all day. Mount Auburn, Nahant, and Marblehead Neck Auto Trip. Mr. Lewis, CRystal 9-1355-R. Afternoon, Nahant. Miss Jewell, LYnn 2-0371.  | May 29, all day. Ipswich and vicinity.  |
| May 10 (6:00 A.M.) Boston Fenway. Meet at Rose Garden. Miss Hanson, COmmonwealth 6-1595.  | May 31, all day. Newburyport and Plum Island.   |
| May 11 (6:30 A.M.) Mount Auburn. Meet at side entrance on Coolidge Avenue. Mr. O'Gorman, KIRkland 7-5797. (5:40 P.M.) Mount Auburn. Meet at main entrance. Mr. Beattie, ELiot 4-6592. | June 5, all day. Concord. U. S. Wildlife Refuge.  |
|   | June 6 (Sunday afternoon). North Reading.   |

## Some Facts About Binoculars

By BARTLETT HENDRICKS



**How Light Travels through a Binocular's Prisms and Lenses.**

all, so stiff is the competition that these improvements have been made without a great increase in price; in fact, almost anyone can now afford a good binocular.

The various types of binoculars are universally described by figures such as "6X, 30; 7X, 35; 8X, 30"; etc. The first, for example, means that the glass is of six power magnification, with front (or objective) lenses 30 millimeters in diameter.

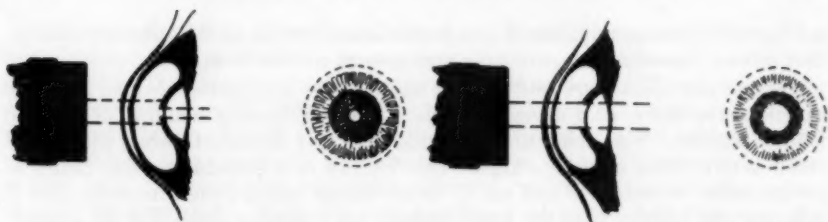
A 6X, 30 glass, whether a binocular, a monocular, or a prismatic telescope, is said to have a "relative brilliance" of 25. This is arrived at by dividing 30 by 6 and squaring the answer. A 7X, 35 collects the same amount of light, but an 8X, 30 gives a relative brilliance of about 14, while a 7X, 50 gives a brightness of 51.1. Objective lenses in this glass are only 15mm. larger than in a 7X, 35, but if you remember your school arithmetic, the area of a circle is as to the square of the diameter!

Hold a binocular at arm's length, pointing toward the light, and you will see a bright circle of light in each eyepiece. These are the *exit* pupils, and you can readily see that they are larger in the 6X, 30 and the 7X, 35 than in an 8X, 30 or a 9X, 35. Thus it can be appreciated that the higher the power or magnification, the larger must be the objective lenses to give the same brilliance. A 30mm. lens will produce a brilliance of 25 in a 6X glass, but a 50mm. lens is needed in a 10X glass.

Knowing this, people are surprised when they first look through a binocular with large objective lenses, such as a 7X, 50, in bright light. The image they see is not a bit more brilliant than when using a 7X, 35, or even an 8X, 30.

Does the oculist call you by your first name? If so, would you hesitate if you knew you could get a brand new pair of eyes, with no trouble and only a spot of cash?

Today field ornithologists can enjoy a new pair of "eyes"! Probably half the birders in America are still squinting through binoculars so hopelessly obsolete that it is a wonder they can distinguish a sparrow from a warbler. Many of these people have never had an opportunity to use a good post-war binocular and do not realize the enormous advances in optical design that have been made. This progress includes the coating of lenses and prisms, better mechanical operation, and the widespread use of light alloys. Modern binoculars not only give up to fifty per cent brighter images, but designs permitting a wider field of view have been developed and the old-type leather covering on bodies has been replaced by durable plastic. Best of



At the left, a glass of high relative brilliance gathers more light than the eye can use, the pupil being stopped down. At the right, in poor light, the human iris opens fully and can utilize the whole light gathering power of the glass. The latter has an exit pupil measurement of 3.7mm. in diameter, but in good light the pupil in the human eye stops down to near this figure, and thus the extra light gathered by the 7.1 pupil of the big 7X, 50 glass is wasted. But in poor light, when the human iris opens wide, the difference in light-gathering ability of the various glasses can easily be seen, although even then the actual difference is not likely to be as great as the figures listed under the respective "relative brilliance" scales suggest. Of course glasses like a 6X, 15 or an 8X, 25 have such small exit pupils that the light-gathering power drops off even under good conditions.

It is impossible to combine in one camera the highest speed of lens, lightest weight, large size negative, and great depth of field. Likewise, no one binocular can have the highest power, maximum field, great light-gathering ability, and light weight. The binocular best suited to your needs will have to be a compromise, since no model can be first in all respects, regardless of price.

Quality being the same, a 7X, 50 has to be heavier, larger, and cost more than a 7X, 35. The "fifty" is standard on navy and merchant ships throughout the world. Bulk is not a serious handicap at sea, while high light-gathering capacity is a necessity. The motion of the ship makes glasses of higher magnification impractical for regular use.

Buying a binocular solely on the basis of power is like selecting an elephant gun for rabbit hunting. Bausch & Lomb does not even make a binocular of higher magnification than 9. As the power increases, the movement of the person holding the glasses is also magnified. B & L maintains that a telescope on a tripod should be used where power is important. Other manufacturers do make binoculars of 12, 16, and even higher power, but if they are candid about it they admit that these are for special purposes, such as in a fire tower, where the observer can rest his elbows. Even with big 60mm. objective lenses, a 20X glass has a light-gathering power of only 9, which is not enough for observation in poor light. Anyone who has used a 20X telescope knows how narrow is the field and how critically the scope has to be aimed and focused. Not only is the *width* of the image seen very narrow, but its *depth* is shallow. A 6X glass can be focused at around 30 feet, and everything from about 15 feet to infinity will be reasonably sharp, but with a high power glass a deer's antlers may be in focus while its tail is out!

High power glasses, therefore, are for special use or for people who need and can afford an extra glass. Many of the uses of a high power binocular can be performed better, at less cost, by a telescope or by a monocular, which is one half of a binocular. And there is no Federal tax on either telescopes or monoculars.

To tell how steadily you can hold a binocular, try to read small print at a reasonable distance. Experienced users will often be able to hold a 9 or even



a 10 power glass steady, but if you have difficulty with an 8X, then you know that a 6 or 7 power glass will give you greater satisfaction.

Six power binoculars are best for most sports and indoor events and are excellent for those who do most of their birding from a window or near a feeding station. The brilliance and wide field pay dividends when observing small active birds at close range. The 7X, 35 is a popular model, being a compromise between a 6 and an 8. Other things being equal, however, the 7 is larger and heavier than the 8 and usually has a smaller field. For all-around birding, the 8X is still the most popular. The 9 and occasionally the 10 power glasses are liked by some of the most experienced field ornithologists, particularly those who do not carry a scope or a powerful monocular as an extra "weapon."

As explained previously, the theoretical light-gathering ability of a binocular is determined by the size of the objective lenses. I say theoretical, because it is by no means true that all 8X, 30's, for example, will give an equally bright image under like conditions. Today all but the cheapest glasses have coated lenses and prisms. On the best makes a coating of magnesium fluoride, four millionths of an inch thick, is applied to the surfaces of the prisms and to all air-to-glass surfaces of the lenses. Coating only a few surfaces makes little difference, but there are from fourteen to eighteen pieces of optical glass in good binoculars, and coating increases the light transmission from forty to almost fifty per cent. Furthermore, in looking toward the light, coating prevents internal reflections and increases the contrast. Simply compare a coated and an uncoated binocular and see what a difference this makes!

To determine if a glass is coated, hold it at an angle in front of you. The coating gives a slight yellowish or purplish tint to the lenses. This tint in no way affects the color of the image seen through the glass.

Some concerns use such terms as "relative light efficiency" instead of "relative brilliance." This is determined by adding forty per cent for coating, but is meaningless, for *all* good binoculars of recent manufacture have coated optics.

I recently had opportunity to compare, in poor light, a huge 8 power glass of foreign manufacture with a Bausch & Lomb 8X, 30. The former should have had a much brighter image, but the B & L was obviously superior. The American binocular was coated on more surfaces, the quality of the glass (five different types) was better, and the grinding and polishing of the optical parts was more expertly done.

The claimed brilliance may be quite different from the actual performance, even in models by the same manufacturer. An exact comparison could be made only by the most scientific tests, conducted by an impartial laboratory. As this has not been done, it is necessary to rely on the reputation of the maker and of the retailer.

To conduct a home test of the brilliance of a number of binoculars, have someone focus the glasses and then mount them on a bench or stand with the eyepieces projecting through holes cut in a large sheet of cardboard, so that the difference makes cannot be recognized. On looking through the glasses, an observer is likely to be surprised in two respects: first, that the difference in brilliance is not as great as supposed, and secondly, that the achievement of some models is actually superior to others costing more and believed to be better.



The size of the field of view seen through a binocular, monocular, or prismatic telescope is governed by the design of the eyepiece lenses and is not controlled by the objective lenses. Using the same scope, a 15X eyepiece gives a field 140 feet wide at 1000 yards distant, a 20X only 111 feet, and a 30X but 78 feet! Since all of us know that the field of view is wider with two eyes than with one, it is commonly assumed that a monocular will not give as wide a field as a corresponding binocular. This is not true; a monocular gives exactly the same field. Naturally, since viewing an object with two eyes enables us to see around each side of the subject slightly, two eyes give a stereoscopic effect. The objective lenses of most prismatic binoculars are wider apart than our eyes and they thus permit better depth perception.

The width of the field is often expressed both in the angular field and in width at a distance of 1000 yards. The angle means little to most of us, but since a field 440 feet wide at 1000 yards distant is understandable, this would seem to be one factor which could be quickly evaluated.

Unhappily, things are by no means so simple. No binocular gives an image as sharp to the very edge as in the center. The finest glasses give a much wider area of extreme sharpness, and thus a binocular with a field of, say 380 feet, may produce an *effective* field that is wider than that of another model with an actual field 425 feet wide. And some cheap glasses may attain a wide field only because their magnification is really less than claimed.

Luckily, width of field is one thing that can be readily checked. Set a chair or other object on the lawn about 50 feet away and look at it with the various binoculars under consideration. If this does not convince you that the width of field (the practical field, not necessarily the claimed field) is of utmost importance, there is another test that will make up your mind.

Look at a subject through your binocular in the normal way. Then, holding the glass two inches from your eyes, take another look. The field will be so drastically cut that you will appreciate instantly the value of a wide field. Of course extreme width of field is purchased at a price; larger prisms have to be used and extra lenses in the eyepieces, and these add to the cost and weight.

"Acromatic" is a term that some overzealous writers of binocular advertising delight to toss about. Most non-prismatic field glasses do not have acromatic lenses, but all prism binoculars of any standing do have them. White light is composed of different colors, of varying wave lengths. Since the different colors stubbornly refuse to focus in the same plane after passing through the lens, it is necessary to correct this error by using several types of glass, having different indexes of refraction. Such lenses are called "acromatic." The eyepieces in some of the best binoculars are made of three lenses, comprised of five pieces of optical glass. No binocular lens can correct all aberrations or distortions, but in a good glass a brick wall will appear sharp and the bricks parallel from the center close to the edge. There may be slight color fringes around a dark object when seen against the sky through good glasses, but this is often a serious defect in poorly made binoculars.

Bausch & Lomb admits that a layman cannot readily tell the difference between two binoculars. The best way to judge binoculars is to see as many *old* ones as possible. Years of service will reveal the important yet often subtle differences. The best glasses are machined to finer tolerances, more types and superior optical glass is used, and acromatic lenses are cemented with a plastic instead of Canada balsam and will not fail in extreme temperatures. Prisms in cheap glasses are often held in position with glue instead of being fastened with metal bands, bolted in place. Finally, since binoculars are

used with both eyes, the two sides have to be in perfect alignment and must be designed to retain this alignment.

High prices do not inevitably prove that a binocular is excellent; I have used ones costing under fifty dollars which were superior to others selling for twice as much.

Except for some 7X, 50's designed to meet rugged Navy specifications, most glasses today have bodies of magnesium or aluminum alloy, with the result that models that formerly weighed several pounds are down to only sixteen or seventeen ounces. Since every manufacturer seems to advertise his binoculars as "the world's lightest," have a care, therefore, in comparing weights. Some advertisers give the weight of individual focusing models, which naturally average less than the central focusing models. Most binoculars use two prisms in each half, called Porro prisms, mounted at right angles to each other. A few manufacturers utilize only one "roof" prism in each half. This design makes their glasses considerably lighter but usually increases the over-all length. Since in the Porro design nearly forty per cent of the weight is represented by the glass, any model of this type offered as much lighter must achieve this either by eliminating some of the optical parts or by decreasing the size, and hence the strength, of the body and moving parts. To a point, lightness is fine, but not when it is achieved at the expense of something else.

Bushnell binoculars are as light as most, but this company has thoughtfully provided three gadgets which make using large or high power glasses more satisfactory. A fleece-lined neck strap pad distributes weight over a wider area, while a tripod adapter mounts any binocular on a camera tripod for extended viewing. A "Chest Mono-pod," a sort of one-legged tripod, rests against the chest and is held by a neck strap. The binocular is held in a clamp but pivots in any direction on a ball-and-socket joint.

For most purposes individual focusing binoculars are superior. Not only are they lighter and usually less expensive, but because the eyepieces screw up and down instead of sliding they are sealed more tightly against dust and moisture. Individual focusing glasses are standard among the armed services of the world. For average looking, these glasses are not hard to focus, since they can be preset and everything from a reasonable distance to infinity will appear sharp. For birds, however, where the subject may be a few feet away one minute and hundreds of yards the next, central focusing glasses are often preferred. The right eyepiece has an individual focusing adjustment so that the binocular can be balanced for any differences that may exist between eyes. Once adjusted, this setting does not have to be changed.

Many wearers of eyeglasses can dispense with them when using a binocular, but those with astigmatism prefer to wear their glasses. When wearing eyeglasses, flat instead of the deeper standard eye cups on the binocular bring the lenses closer to the eyes, permitting a normal width of field. Some binoculars can be ordered with flat cups but others are made only with the standard type, but if you have the standard type binocular, you can either unscrew the regular eye cups and use them without any, or you can have cups made to order by E. B. Meyrowitz, Inc., 520 Fifth Ave., New York 36. If the binocular is to be used by anyone besides yourself, it is wise to own standard eye cups as well, since it is difficult for a person who does not wear glasses to use a binocular with flat cups.

Many an ornithologist with an interest in botany has wished for his hand lens when he encounters a rare flower while birding. It is surprising how few know that binoculars can be used to magnify small objects. Hold the binoc-

ular upside down, with the subject very close to one of the eyepieces, and look through the objective lens.

The Germans invented the prism binocular and for years they dominated the world market. Before the war, Zeiss glasses held top spot, but I believe that today the only "Zeiss" glasses are manufactured in the Soviet Zone, not by Carl Zeiss, Inc., of the American Zone of Germany. The Leitz glasses are excellent, as anyone would expect who knows the reputation of the Leica camera. Hensoldt glasses are also good; in fact, they are rated among the top binoculars in Germany today. Their light weight and small diameter make them a favorite with many, and they are especially suited to women, whose smaller hands make it difficult to use a larger and heavier binocular. The small roof prism glasses made by Moller Wedell have unusual features.

American-made Bausch & Lomb binoculars are superb, and their streamlined design is widely copied. Wollensak glasses are also good, as are those made in England by Ross, but the latter are seldom seen in this country.

The Japanese optical industry has made enormous strides in the last few years. The standard Japanese binoculars, usually carbon copies of the B & L or Zeiss design, are often good. The best of these, imported by such firms as Swift & Anderson, Bushnell, or United, are really excellent, especially when the low price is considered. The tiny Japanese binoculars, weighing around eight ounces, are handy as pocket glasses, but light-gathering ability is low, and the eyepieces are so small that they are difficult to use for extended periods.

Beware of foreign binoculars with little or no identification. Quantities of these glasses are flooding the market. Some are good, others junk, but it is often difficult to secure parts to repair such "orphan" equipment.

Since the binocular you finally select has to be a compromise, perhaps the factors to consider should be listed in their order of importance. Number one, I'd say, is the ability of the glasses to render a brilliant, sharp image, with accurate color rendition and with the two halves of the binocular in perfect alignment or collimation. Many would think the lasting quality of the binocular to be of first priority, but I want the model giving the finest result in its price range, even if it might not have quite as long a life, and I would therefore consider durability second. This is not too important, since the best glasses usually will have the longest life. In the third place, I would put width of field ahead of relative brilliance. Fourth would come lightness, and, last, the appearance of the binocular and case.

Just as with the purchase of a fine watch, the reputation of the binocular manufacturer is of first consideration after the particular type of glass has been selected, and the integrity of the retailer is a close second. It is best to buy from a store or mail order house that specializes in fine optical equipment rather than one selling binoculars only incidentally. The fact that a department store may be one of the largest dealers means little; I know that one of the world's greatest has a smaller selection of binoculars than some stores in small cities. And the worst case I know of selling a customer the wrong binocular for his needs occurred at a sporting goods store known from coast to coast.

None of the more than one hundred parts that go into a binocular are in themselves expensive; the difference between cheap glasses and the best is one of design and workmanship, and this is the reason why only *cheap* binoculars are likely to prove expensive!

## Appointment In The Early Afternoon

BY ELIZABETH VINCENT FOSTER

Thank you for letting me come at such short notice. The moment I thought of you for this — this project I have in mind — I couldn't wait, I had to see you at once. What is it about? Well, I'll tell you. Now please don't say at the very beginning, "Why, I couldn't possibly do *that*." Time? Nobody has time. Yet things that ought to be done find doers. This is something that ought to be done. I know you will think so, I know you will want it here in your town, and if you really cannot do it yourself, I am confident you will persuade someone else to undertake it. But I think you are the one.

Yes, yes, I'm coming to the point. Now you know how it is — in a small town like this where nearly everybody has a garden, and real country is so close, people are quite conscious of the wild world that overlaps their back yards. They are more or less acquainted with their wild neighbors — birds, animals, and plants — and they take an interest in them just as they do in their human neighbors. News about Coons, Grosbeaks, and Lady's-slippers is news just as news about Perkinses, McDonalds, and Poplaskis is. People like to hear about interesting strangers and unusual events in both worlds. But human marriages, returned travelers, and births get reported in the local paper, while doings in the mysterious outdoors are just gossiped about, misunderstood, and misinterpreted as often as not. Think of the slanders circulated about such pillars of society as the Buteo hawks, for example. People call them "Hen Hawks," when "Mouse Hawk" would be a much truer name, as you know. Well, what I propose is intelligent newspaper coverage of the outdoors in this town, and I propose that you do it.

Yes, I knew you would say that. Of course you aren't a trained naturalist. So what? You know the birds of this region pretty well. You may not be an expert on trees and flowers and animals and insects, but a lifetime interest in the out-of-doors has made you their friend and champion, and quite able to look up the facts you lack. You are a member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. That means that a good reference library and expert knowledge are yours to command. As for "writing," I am happy to hear you cannot "write." Nothing could be further from the purpose than flowery literary effort. What we are after is *news*:

"Mrs. Florence L. Cook of Poor Farm Road, reports that she looked out one day last week to see Peewee, her white tomcat, pursuing a tiny Red Fox cub across the field and into the woods."

Any trouble about that? Of course explanation will sometimes be called for:

"Mr. and Mrs. Howe, guests of the Lionel Sheppards, saw a Red-headed Woodpecker on May 26 near the airport. Many people call our common male Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers Red-headed because of the small red patch on the back of their heads. The real Red-headed, a western and southern species rare in Massachusetts, has a solid red head right down to his shoulders, and a striking black and white body. Seeing one around here is a real event."

Do you mean to say you couldn't write that?

I foresee no trouble with the editor of the paper once he understands that what you are offering him is news. He will welcome free copy of local interest, especially when he finds that people seem to like it. You and he can work out a title — some such thing as "Nature This Week" or "News Outside the Door." A simple, straightforward title.

Well, then, the editor willing and your title set up, what are you going to write? Reporters do not chew their erasers trying to think of ideas — they look for news. You can begin by looking out the window. Then you call up Mrs. Brown on Grove Street to find out what she has in her feeding tray that you haven't got, and what she has heard — she generally knows what's going on in the local bird world. She gives you several interesting reports.

While you are writing this up, the milkman comes in. Remembering that he is interested in wildlife, you ask him if he's seen anything lately in his travels around town. Why, yes, he saw a Red Fox yesterday, and honestly, it was the darndest-looking Fox, it's tail was skinny as a rat's. It's the fox mange, they say all the local Foxes are getting it. So you call the game warden (conservation officer, as he is now called). He has several things to add about the fox mange, including the probable connection between sick Foxes and the present superabundance of Cottontails. He expresses interest in your news column and agrees to give you any appropriate items he may come across. He remarks that a little publicity about Conservation could sure do some good around here.

Publicity? Well, if you are going in for publicity, isn't your first duty to publicize the Massachusetts Audubon Society? Perhaps that is really the idea behind this column, to point out the varied activities of this society and the many advantages of belonging to it? No. I don't think so. It doesn't need to be — in your effort to make your fellow townspeople more aware of the natural world around them, the Massachusetts Audubon Society will crop up over and over again. No question of dragging it in — you won't be able to keep it out. Take a list of subjects of local interest you might want to bring up: Unusual birds observed in town, arrivals of migrants, bird feeding, bird-houses, planting for birds, May bird walks, Christmas censuses, Audubon Nature Theatre, courses and activities at a near-by Audubon sanctuary, school conservation courses, natural history day camps, Wildwood Nature Camp, bus trips and campouts — those are just a few of the obvious matters you could not discuss without referring to the Society. In all natural history fields you will find yourself citing books (*A Pocket Guide to the Trees*, by Rutherford Platt. You can get it from the Massachusetts Audubon Society — 35¢); authorities ("The Massachusetts Audubon Society maintains that shrews are the most common mammal in some areas."); the *Bulletin* ("According to an item in the Massachusetts Audubon Society *Bulletin*, a Bobcat was shot recently in North Andover.") Need I go on? Just doing the job will help the Society, and the Society will certainly help you do the job. A fertile symbiosis.

Yes, I know it seems like a lot of work — at least at first. But once you get going, once the bird watchers in town know what you are doing and you have established contact with other outdoor people who can give you news, your material will flow in, ideas will sprout like mushrooms, you will find such interest and satisfaction in the job that it won't seem like work at all. Yes, but still, you say, a column a week is a pretty large order for someone whose life is already full. Well, you needn't do it all yourself every week. As long as you include every week, or almost every week, items of local news, some general remarks of local application will always be in order. For



instance, "Conservation Teaching in Our Schools," by the Audubon nature teacher who comes fortnightly to the fifth grade — ask her, she'll write it; "Our Town Forest" — ask the man whose enthusiasm got the town forest established and he'll be glad to write on what has been accomplished; "Indian Relics of this Region," by the local antiquary; "Our Wild Flowers," by the local botanist; "My Pet Turtle," by Tommy d'Agostino in the fifth grade; "A Training Program for Junior Sportsmen," by the president of the Sportsman's Club; "A Birding Trip to Florida," by Mrs. Brown; "Abolish the Litterbug," by the Garden Club conservation chairman; not to mention the monthly releases from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, on which you can always count, and the nature articles made available without charge by the National Wildlife Federation, including mats (pictures ready to print) depicting birds, mammals, fishes, and plants." You can see there's no end to the possibilities. Moreover — and here I am dreaming a little — suppose not only you and I, but others like us all over this county, all over the State, were doing the same thing. How easily we could co-operate. Since much of our general material would be appropriate in each place, we could swap; some material could be centrally written and, as it were, syndicated. Expense, organization — certainly. But if the demand arises, problems like that can be met. Could the Massachusetts Audubon Society refuse help for such a venture?

As I drove over here I was astonished to see a whole street of new houses in what I remembered was quite recently a hayfield. Neat little houses with new lawns and mathematical foundation planting. I rejoiced for those new families, moved most likely from yardless town apartments into possession of a piece of outdoors of their own, with real country only a few rods away. What fun, what interest and joy they will find in their new life — if they know how to look for it. Will their children adventure across that wall (carefully avoiding the poison ivy) into the maple swamp yonder, discover hummocks of bright green velvet moss, cowslips and queer skunk cabbages, hear the first peepers and watch, oh so still, to catch sight of one with the bubble at his throat? Will busy housewives pause a dozen times a morning to watch the birds at their feeding trays, a never-failing source of interest and delight? Will men whose days are spent in shop or office, when they come back, walk out of doors and feel at home there? What fun to have so many new paths open. The trouble is, if there are no signposts people may not find these paths. A word, a hint, may send them on journeys of discovery.

What you will do is help make people aware. People walking the streets of your town, driving its highways, tramping its fields and woods, or just standing in their doorways looking out will see what they have not seen before. They will come to understand better what they see. And so will you, too.

What do you say? Will you take the job?

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### New Mockingbird Recording

A combination of the Mockingbird recorded by Dr. Paul Kellogg in its usual Florida haunts and the remarkable imitations of the Weston bird recorded by the Massachusetts Audubon Society is being issued in a new record by the Cornell University Press. This is a single double-face record, with comment by C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and is part of the excellent collection which Cornell has assembled through their Laboratory of Ornithology. The record is now available at Audubon House, and the price is the same as for the earlier record, \$2.50.



## Tenth Annual Berkshire Campout

June 4 - 6, 1954

The fragrance of spruce and balsam, the soft carpet of mosses, the cascading notes of a Winter Wren issuing from some windfall, the striking beauty of a Blackburnian Warbler; all these delights and many more await on Mt. Greylock those who attend the Berkshire Campout. Greylock — with its beautiful sunsets and sunrises, its invigorating air, its chorus of thrushes punctuated by the insectlike song of the Black-poll Warblers and the plaintive refrain of the White-throats — one can never forget.

The trip down-county offers much that is interesting, too. Have you ever stood on the edge of a marsh just before sunrise, as the wisps of fog and mist swirl up from the calm surface of the water, and heard the cackle of a Gallinule while you watched a Virginia Rail feeding in a small pool? Come with us to Brielman Swamp. The fields and woods, and even the rocky cliffs, yield bird treasures of great interest. Think of standing on a cliff and watching a Duck Hawk twist and dive at eye level, or even lower!

These are a few of the thrills you may experience on the Berkshire Campout. Every trip varies, of course; but two things you may be sure of, there will be good birding, with as good views of the birds as we can get, and good company.

**HEADQUARTERS:** The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield. Tel. Pittsfield 2-6373.

**RESERVATIONS:** Limited to 50 persons. Reservations should be made in advance with Alvah W. Sanborn, Campout Chairman, Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Massachusetts, not later than May 29. No cancellations will be accepted after this date. See Registration Form.

**FEE:** Save money; register early. If registration is postmarked not later than May 23, fee is \$6.00; after May 23, \$7.00. This fee includes guide service, one night's lodging on Mt. Greylock, dinner Saturday evening, and lunch Sunday. For those attending one night on Greylock and one day only, the fee is \$4.50.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation during the Campout will be by private cars and, so far as possible, will be furnished for those requiring it. Transportation to and from Pittsfield must be provided by the individual.

**LODGING:** All attending the Campout must arrange directly for their own lodging (except for Greylock reservations, for which see Registration Form), but this does not constitute a problem, as there is an abundance of rooms, cabins, and motels in Pittsfield and vicinity at this season of the year. Lodging information will be supplied upon request. For those who wish to camp out, camp sites are available at Pleasant Valley and on top of the mountain. For those braving the rigors of a night out on the mountaintop, the lodging fee of \$1.25 will be refunded.

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### Program

**FRIDAY, JUNE 4.** 5:00-7:00 P. M. Arrive at Berkshire Museum and register. "The Bicknell's Thrush" trip leaves at 6:15 to spend the night at Bascom Lodge on the summit of Mt. Greylock.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 5.** 5:00 A. M. Valley Trip, "The Turkey Vulture," leaves the Berkshire Museum to explore the southern part of the county. Breakfast can be obtained at 4:30 near the museum; a box lunch should also be purchased.

The Mountain Group can obtain *breakfast* and *lunch* at Bascom Lodge. The Tall Spruces and Stony Ledge will be explored, and after lunch the lakes and marshes around Pittsfield will be visited.

5:15 P. M. Both groups meet at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary for dinner.

6:15 P. M. The Valley Group leaves to spend the night on Greylock.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6. The group that took the Mountain Trip on Saturday will this day take the Valley Trip, and vice versa. Starting times will be the same as Saturday. At 1:00 P. M., all groups meet at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary for luncheon, following which the Campout will adjourn.

All trips will start promptly as scheduled regardless of the weather, but may be subject to changes which will be announced at the Campout.

Everyone attending the Campout should bring warm clothing, as the nights and mornings, especially on the mountain, may be cold.

### Registration Form

ALVAH W. SANBORN, *Chairman*, Campout Committee  
Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass.

I (We) hereby register for the BERKSHIRE CAMPOUT, June 4, 5, 6, 1954. Enclosed is (are) registration fee(s) as checked below. Make checks payable to Alvah W. Sanborn.

Entire Campout (includes lodging on Mt. Greylock)

If postmarked by May 23, \$6.00 per person

If postmarked after May 23, \$7.00 per person

I wish to spend (Friday night) (Saturday night) on Mt. Greylock.

Half of Campout (includes lodging on Mt. Greylock)

Friday night and Saturday only, \$4.50 per person

Saturday night and Sunday only, \$4.50 per person

(Accommodations on Mt. Greylock are limited to eleven persons, consequently campers can spend only one night on the mountain. If all accommodations have already been reserved when your application is received, the fee of \$1.25 will be refunded.)

☐ Please send list of possible places to secure lodging.

☐ I can furnish transportation for ..... extra persons.

☐ I desire transportation for the trips scheduled for ..... persons.

Name ..... Address .....

Name ..... Address .....

### Audubon Field Trip

SUNDAY, MAY 23. To Audubon Wildlife sanctuaries north of Boston for spring migrants. Nahant Thicket, Marblehead Neck, and Ipswich River Sanctuaries. Fare and guide fee, \$3.00. Fee for those using private cars and following bus, 75 cents per person. Chartered bus leaves Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, at 8:15 A.M., returning at approximately 7:00 P.M. Reservations should be made a week or more in advance. Cancellations cannot be accepted after noon of Friday, May 21. Bring your own lunch.

### The Berkshire Museum

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

May 1-31. Exhibit of "Seascapes" by Guy Thompson.

May 3-30. Photographic Society of America. "Hong Kong" exhibit.

May 6, 7, 8. 8:15 P.M. The Town Players.

May 15. Hoffmann Bird Club. Annual "Century Run."

May 26-27. 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. Annual exhibit of hooked rugs by pupils of Mrs. I. S. F. Dodd.

## Thumbnail Sketches of Our Vice-Presidents



HENRY SOUTHWORTH SHAW has been a member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society since 1915, and a life member since 1921. He has been interested in birds for more than forty years. He tells us that he never made a deep study of ornithology, as birds were just one of several interests — others being radio and electrical engineering, meteorology, astronomy, and music. His knowledge of birds began after marriage through an annual bluebird race which Mrs. Shaw

had with an uncle, to find the first spring Bluebird. The prize was a box of candy, and Mr. Shaw lent a helpful eye and ear to aid his wife in winning her share of the contests. His interest in birds was stimulated by having gone on many of Charles J. Maynard's bird walks, and among the experiences to which he looks back with much pleasure are a trip to Martha's Vineyard with Edward Howe Forbush, in April, 1916, when he had a good opportunity to see and hear the spring antics of some of the few-remaining Heath Hens, and trips to Kent Island in the Bay of Fundy with Dr. Alfred O. Gross, to see the many interesting birds, including Petrels, as well as the Puffins at Machias Seal Island. And his interest became more intense as he succeeded in attracting many wild birds to his hand for food, even such unusual species as Redpoll, Siskin, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. His diary records that on one occasion a Red-breasted Nuthatch made thirty-seven trips to his hand for chopped walnuts in fifteen minutes, and then twenty-nine trips in seven minutes, when the presence of a Shrike caused the bird to "freeze" in a bush.

Mr. Shaw was elected a director of the Society in January, 1925, but on his removal a few years later to Exeter, New Hampshire, where he remained for several years, he withdrew from the Board and was elected an honorary vice-president.

Mr. Shaw was made a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1918, when meetings were still being held in Mr. Brewster's museum in Cambridge. His membership continued until 1942, and for several years he was one of the trustees of the club. For twenty-five years he was a member of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, and at one time was vice-president of the organization. He enjoyed the thrill of banding birds, but other duties prevented his giving sufficient time to this interest. He has been an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1916.

Born in Boston, Mr. Shaw attended Harvard College and was graduated with an A.B. degree in 1906. After college he became engaged in financial and manufacturing interests in Boston and Cambridge. From 1917 until he retired in 1951, he was associated, in various administrative positions, with the General Radio Company, of Cambridge, manufacturers of electrical laboratory and industrial equipment. After residence in New Hampshire, he returned to Massachusetts for a time but later moved to Westbrook, Maine, where he now makes his home.

Over the years Mr. Shaw has retained a lively interest in all phases of the work of the Society, but particularly in the educational work, and he plans

occasional visits to Audubon House to keep informed of progress made. Although he insists that his interest in birds has been mostly for personal pleasure, he has been ever ready to help the cause of conservation of natural resources as carried on through the Audubon program in Massachusetts.

For many years one of his interests has been searching on hilltops for triangulation stations which were established by the United States Coast Survey as a preliminary to mapping operations, some of them more than one hundred years old, and many of them marked merely by a drill hole in a ledge. When a station is found a "recovery note" is sent to Washington, to keep the records up to date.

Mr. Shaw was for several years a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. He has served on the council of the American Meteorological Society, and is a Fellow of the Institute of Radio Engineers, of the Acoustical Society of America, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

C. RUSSELL MASON

## So Much For So Little

### Month for Gardens

After April's showers and sunshine, the good earth is ready for a month of planting activity in gardens. And gardens, to many, suggest birds. Perhaps that is why our heaviest enrollment of new members each year is in May. Just now the book displays at Audubon House are most inviting to the bird and garden enthusiast. Come in some day and look over our stocks. Among these offerings, and perennial in its freshness, is the slim volume written by our executive director, who is also a horticulturist, *Picture Primer of Attracting Birds*. Beautifully illustrated in color and replete with helpful hints and suggestions, here is a book useful to garden devotees in any part of the United States — and it is very inexpensive.

We welcome the following new members this month and are grateful for the continued response from our old members who have increased their support of the work.

#### Life Members

Bradford, Mrs. Standish, S. Hamilton  
\*\*Forbes, Dr. Henry S., Milton

#### Contributing Members

\*\*Cavanaugh, Dr. J. E., Northampton  
\*\*Cavanaugh, Mrs. J. E., Northampton  
\*\*Drake, Francis E., Rye Beach, N. H.  
\*\*Ordway, Miss Priscilla, Newton Ctr.  
\*\*Schenck, Miss Priscilla, Newton  
\*\*Wirth, Mrs. Jacob, Boston

#### Supporting Members

\*Bamford, Mrs. Robert Truman, Ipswich  
Bates, Mrs. Moreton R., Springfield  
\*Bluemner, Mrs. Robert, Braintree  
\*Brody, Mrs. Nathan, Laconia, N. H.  
\*Bryant, Miss Mary L., Milton  
\*Burns, Miss Mary A.,  
Margarettsville, N. S., Can.  
Cooper, Mrs. Clarence,  
Tuckers Town, Bermuda  
\*Curtis, Miss E. Mabel, Beverly  
David, Mrs. Maryon S., Taunton  
\*Transferred from Active Membership  
\*\*Transferred from Supporting  
Membership

Gascoigne, Mrs. Stanley, Paget, Bermuda  
Hall, Mrs. Maurice A., Marshfield Hills  
\*Hallock, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. K.,  
Wayland

\*Harding, Mrs. Warren D., Bridgewater  
\*Homans, Miss Katharine A., Canton  
\*Houghton, Miss Natalie, Newton Ctr.  
Jarvis, A. G., Hinsdale  
Johnson, Mrs. Arthur S., Framingham  
Keniston, Frank E., Melrose  
Kingsbury, Dr. Frank W., Storrs, Conn.  
Luther, Mrs. Katharine R., Milton  
Meredith, Irving, Milton  
\*Pangburn, Mrs. Sheldon E., Melrose  
\*Richmond, Mrs. Ralph S.,  
Little Compton, R. I.

\*Roper, Miss Alice E., Wellesley  
\*Shelander, Mrs. Anna G., Sharon  
Trafton, Miss Adeline, S. Hanover  
\*Wills, John, Melrose

#### Active Members

Angell, Mrs. Cyril N., Needham  
Bailey, Mrs. Lawrence E., Boston  
Baird, Mrs. Philip, Newton Hlds.  
Baker, Donald, Edgewood, R. I.

Barron, Mrs. William E., Holbrook  
 Birkenstock, David J., Wilmington, Del.  
 Blake, Lester W., Hampton, N. H.  
 Boisvert, Frank J., Chicopee  
 Borden, Mrs. Charles N., Boston  
 Burkat, Mrs. Leonard, Brookline  
 Burr, Sumner C., Winchester  
 Caldwell, Mrs. Napier, Danvers  
 Callahan, Raymond F., Brookville  
 Campbell, Mrs. Clayton E.,

## Buzzards Bay

Campbell, Mrs. Ruth F., Newton  
 Carter, Miss Julia C., Bridgewater  
 Cate, Mrs. Henry F., Jr., W. Newton  
 Chase, Mrs. J. B., Boston  
 Cirino, Mrs. Elizabeth M., Taunton  
 Cobb, Mrs. Edwin B., Needham  
 Cogbill, B. A., Pittsfield  
 Cohen, Miss Marlene, Newton Ctr.  
 Cornish, Mrs. John G., Chestnut Hill  
 Crowell, Mrs. Robert E., S. Dennis  
 Crowell, Mrs. Winslow, Charles River  
 Dahl, Mrs. Curtis, Norton  
 de Lancey, Robert E., Exeter, N. H.  
 Dempsey, Mrs. Freeman D.,

## Canaan, Conn.

Derbyshire, Miss Jane, Weston  
 Dodge, Mrs. Charles F., Concord, N. H.  
 Dorward, Miss Florence G.,

## Framingham Ctr.

Downing, Mrs. Evelyn K., Attleboro  
 Doyle, Mrs. Arthur F., Salem Willows  
 Durna, Mrs. Margaret E., Erving  
 Eames, Mrs. Edward W., S. Byfield  
 Edmonds, Walter L., Roslindale  
 Edwards, Miss Sally W., Boston  
 Elliott, Mrs. George A., Boston  
 Fallon, Joseph B., W. Roxbury  
 Farrel, Ralph V., Wellesley  
 Finch, Davis, Exeter, N. H.  
 Fiske, Mrs. Redington, Boston  
 Fletcher, Miss Annie C., Weston  
 Flick, Dr. John B., Gladwyne, Pa.  
 Foerster, William X., E. Brewster  
 Fortmiller, Mrs. Hubert C., Brookline  
 Francis, Mrs. Melville, Malden  
 Fraser, Mrs. Chester, Manchester, N. H.  
 Fraser, Mrs. George E., N. Andover  
 French, Mrs. H. N., Newton Ctr.  
 Friel, Mrs. Frances W., Pittsfield  
 Gates, Mrs. David A., Cambridge  
 Geddes, James G., Melrose  
 Gillis, Mrs. Joseph, W. Roxbury  
 Gleason, Mrs. Thomas D., Holbrook  
 Gorman, Miss Dorothy, Jamaica Plain  
 Graham, Joseph R., III, Sterling  
 Hackett, Mrs. Joseph, Roslindale  
 Hadley, Dr. R. V., Southboro  
 Hadley, Mrs. Willard, Newburyport  
 Hare, Edward A., Sharon  
 Hare, Mrs. Edward A., Sharon  
 Hart, Mrs. Frederick Hayward, Nahant  
 Haskins, Mrs. Lawrence E., Abington  
 Hathaway, Mrs. Horace, Fall River  
 Havens, Mrs. Carleton H., Storrs, Conn.

Helmer, Miss Edith B., Wilbraham  
 Hiam, Mrs. Edwin W., Brookline  
 Hill, Ralph H., Andover  
 Holbrook, Miss Blanche E., Whitman  
 Horgan, Mrs. Francis J., W. Roxbury  
 Hunnewell, Miss Clara Elizabeth

## Newton Ctr.

James, Mrs. Paul R., N. Scituate  
 Jenkins, Mrs. George O., Bridgewater  
 Joslin, Charles S., Lynnfield Ctr.  
 Keenan, Philip E., Dover, N. H.  
 Kinsey, Miss Judith L., Pittsfield  
 Kunz, Dr. Lawrence J., W. Roxbury  
 Lincoln, Frank William, Belmont  
 Litton, James, Brookline  
 Lord, Mrs. Philip H., Marblehead Neck  
 Lottridge, Lawrence, Melrose  
 Lurvey, Mrs. Cecil A.,

## New Durham, N. H.

Manice, William D., Jr., Weston  
 Marble, R. M., Woodstock, Vt.  
 Martin, Mrs. Arthur, Malden  
 Masow, Mrs. Julius L., Newton  
 Meier, Dr. Frederick A., Salem  
 Miller, Mrs. Lewis E., Cambridge  
 Mortimer, Carroll J., Sharon  
 Murphy, Mrs. James, W. Roxbury  
 Murphy, Robert O., Marshfield  
 Norris, Mrs. Ray H., Framingham  
 O'Malley, Mrs. Marion E., S. Lancaster  
 Osgood, Mrs. Ernest H., Needham  
 Packard, Mrs. A. Bertha, Salem  
 Parker, Mrs. Ralph A.,

## Framingham Ctr.

Peabody, Miss Helen, Cambridge  
 Perkins, Mrs. G. Howard, Cambridge  
 Perry, Mrs. Lewis F., Chestnut Hill  
 Pope, Laurence E., Hingham  
 Proctor, Mrs. Sanford, Williamstown  
 Puro, Mrs. Wayne, Hudson  
 Quinn, George, Holbrook  
 Rayner, Mrs. William E., Pittsfield  
 Reid, Mrs. Thomas J., Milton  
 Ripley, Mrs. George, Stockbridge  
 Ross, Mrs. Harry H., Pittsfield  
 Sachs, Coleman Joseph, Belmont  
 Sampson, Major Chauncey W.,  
 Cazenovia, N. Y.

Sargent, Mrs. Paul, Weston  
 Sauter, George Philip, Glens Falls, N. Y.  
 Saville, Mrs. Elsie M., Quincy  
 Schnare, Jeffre G., Easthampton  
 Schnells, Mrs. Gerry B., Dover  
 Seamans, Richard F., Concord  
 Sedgwick, Mrs. George O., Jr.,  
 Lebanon Springs, N. Y.

Seward, Benjamin, Boston  
 Sheldon, Mrs. William W., Webster  
 Simmons, Miss Mabel R., Stoughton  
 Smith, Mrs. Eric H., Worcester  
 Smith, Mrs. Frederick, Malden  
 Smith, Miss Helen B., Lynn  
 Smith, J. Rodney, Mystic, Conn.  
 Smith, Sumner, Jr., Cohasset  
 Sprague, Mrs. Fred, Malden



Sterling, Lester O., Beverly  
 Sterling, Mrs. Lester O., Beverly  
 Stickney, Mrs. Wendell, Palmer  
 Sunderland, Mrs. James, Malden  
 Symington, Larry, Milton  
 Thomas, Mrs. Donald F., Edgartown  
 Townsend, Terry, Jr., Natick  
 Tucker, Mrs. F. Curtis, Pittsfield  
 Tucker, Mrs. F. L., Wellesley Hills

Turner, Miss M. Evelyn, E. Lynn  
 Urekew, Robert, Northampton  
 Verry, Hugh, Beverly  
 Vickery, Miss Helen E., Fitchburg  
 Vogel, Louis F., Needham  
 Vose, Mrs. Robert C., Jr., Dedham  
 Welch, Dudley, Melrose  
 Williams, Mrs. Carroll M., Lexington  
 Wymond, Philip C., Jr., Chestnut Hill

## My Annisquam Winter Visitors

BY LELIA NORWOOD ADAMS

This past winter has brought to my home some extremely interesting visitors. One of them was a bird, a Black-headed Grosbeak, whose normal range should have kept it in the Rocky Mountain States or farther west. The others were the people who came from near and far when the news of my feathered alien was spread abroad.

The Grosbeak arrived on January 16, 1954, at approximately 9:30 A.M., alighting on one of several wide window sills where I keep food for birds in winter. My thought, which was as fleeting as his first visit, was, "You are a rare bird in this vicinity," and my first impression was that it resembled an Audubon print of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in immature plumage. I did not expect ever to see him again, nor did I for some time. Then there was a second visit of slightly longer duration, a minute or less. I decided to have paper and pencil handy, and on his third visit I was able to sketch his general shape and a few identifying features, and to identify the bird finally as unquestionably a Black-headed Grosbeak, *Hedymeles melanocephalus*.

This Grosbeak appears to be fastidious, even when hungry neither hurrying nor gorging — sometimes leaving when he has partaken of very few seeds, six or seven; the longest feedings have been counted as requiring fifty pecks toward the feeder; on those occasions I can be sure of sunflower seeds since I can see the hulls fall. The smaller seeds in the wild bird mixture are not easily counted but he does eat them.

He is more defensive than aggressive. He approaches cautiously, never flushing a bird from the feeder or on the ground, yet he veers slightly to remind an intruder (usually a Junco) that manners must be observed. After all, he has been considerate and he objects to inconsiderateness in others. He leaves suddenly if people pass on foot or boys on bicycles, but he has received visitors with appreciation if they remain in cars parked across the street.

New England cannot have been too easy a spot to which to adjust. Not gauche, he has not flaunted any discomfort; it is probably my deep sympathy which forces this reflection regarding this lovely little displaced bird. There is a slight impression given me that I am watching a superb bird-rendering of Hamlet and listening to his soliloquy.

The pleasure this bird has brought me has been great indeed; any words I may write can be but meager expression. Often a recollection of the words of Henri Fabre come to me (in probably incorrect remembrance of the exact quotation), "All the world will pass through my garden in time." A gentleman from New York wrote me: "This is surely a relief from bomb-talk and I am happy to say was able to distract me from undesirable thoughts." On the other hand, a person with whom I shared a bus seat commented, "I haven't come to see the bird, for, to me, 'a bird is just a bird,' to paraphrase Gertrude Stein." If she had refrained from saying *just* a bird! Does not the original



"A Rose is a Rose" comprise quite special connotation? Serenely I replied, "This bird is *this* bird" and full of personality.

Many of my visitors have returned four to seven times. The nicest remark made to me, perhaps, was, "I am so glad he came to you!" In one car from Springfield were Mr. and Mrs. R. J. L. and their children, Lois, Mary, and Jon (our youngest visitor, aged one and a half years, who misused in nomenclature, saying "Goose!"). The oldest visitors (one confided to me that she was over eighty) I feel certain will cherish memories as

"In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude."

And who knows positively that my flowering dogwood tree is not a veritable Torii Gate especially dedicated to many, many spirits?

### Newton Garden Tour

Seven gardens will be opened this year for the annual Spring Garden Tour of the Newton Tribute Foundation on May 8, 9, and 10, as noted in the April *Bulletin*. The proceeds from tickets for the Tour go toward the maintenance and extension of the memorial plantings along Commonwealth Avenue in Newton, the latest of which is the very extensive group of flowering crabs and dogwood near Lake Street.

The gardens to be opened this year include those of Mrs. John E. Knight, 125 Country Club Road, Newton Centre; Dr. and Mrs. Charles P. Sheldon, 67 Dedham Street, Newton Centre; Mr. and Mrs. Warren B. Kennedy, 39 Columbus Street, Newton Highlands; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford H. Walker, 711 Chestnut Street, Waban; Miss Josephine Douglass, 21 Kinmouth Road, Waban; Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Shipley, Jr., 71 Vista Avenue, Auburndale; and Mr. and Mrs. E. Graham Bates, 46 Central Street, Auburndale.

### A Correction

Peter Paul Kellogg, Professor of Ornithology and Biological Acoustics at Cornell University, calls our attention to an unfortunate slip in the January *Bulletin*, but at the same time gives us a nice compliment. He writes: "I don't usually see your *Bulletin* but I just happened to run into the January issue. It's just filled with interesting material and I have enjoyed reading it very much. In the second paragraph of Richard Borden's review of *The Whooping Crane*, Borden apparently gives Bob Allen credit for having written the report No. 1 on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Of course, as you know, this was prepared by Jim Tanner as a part of his Ph.D. problem." Our apologies to that fine bird student, James T. Tanner.

### May Bird Walks — Saturday, May 8

We hope that numbers of our members and their friends are planning to participate in the nearly one hundred local bird walks scheduled for Saturday, May 8, in celebration of Audubon Week. See the April *Bulletin* for a list of these walks, with hour and place of meeting, and leaders in charge, or call or write Audubon House. Announcements will also be made in local newspapers.

The following walks have been added to our published list:

Place	Leaders	Rendezvous
Dover	Henry Guild	8:00 A. M. Home of John I. Wylde
Fitchburg	Miss Rachel Bruce and Miss Hulda Smith	6:00 A.M., Coolidge Park
Natick	Mrs. Louise Mosman	8:00 A.M. Entrance to Science Park, Oak Street
Waban	Winthrop Rhodes	6:00 A.M. Railroad Bridge, Waban Square
Weymouth	Mr. and Mrs. John Sylvester Albert Nonkes	7:30 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., 62 Harding St. 7:30 A.M. Weymouth Hgts. Railroad Station (also walk on May 1, same time)

### Sanctuary Notes for March

IPSWICH RIVER. A gray day, snow flurries, now and then a snatch of sunshine breaks through. But not long enough to release the icy covering that seals the flower buds of the red maples and the elms. The voices of the wood frogs and peepers have been silenced by the cold. The turtles have dropped back to their mud to await the return of sunnier days.

With an influx of Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles very early, we were disappointed at the tardiness and paucity of other early migrants. Fox Sparrows have been scarce; records of but one or two here and there. If only in the next few days a real flock will appear in grand chorus to buoy up our spirits! Some forty Tree Swallows skimmed the river meadows on March 21. The next day a pair of American Coot shared a puddle with three Black Ducks. On the 15th, the tiny head and bright eyes of our front-lawn Chipmunk peered above the snow he had tunneled up through. Hesitatingly he tried the trip to the feeder but retreated. Being glad to see him again, I went out and scattered a circle of seed around his entrance, and soon he popped up again to enjoy the handout.

In creating the proper habitat for our Woodland Wildflower Garden, some trees had to be cut out and others introduced. We set in over a hundred trees, including pine, hemlock, beech, oaks, and a few flowering dogwood. It will take many years of thought, labor, and fun to perfect this area, but we do enjoy standing at the little hidden pond and envisaging its future, the pleasure it will give, and the educational value it will offer.

The many little jobs at the Sanctuary include an annual cleaning out of nesting boxes. And it does get put off. But one afternoon with ladder and a putty knife to scrape with, I toured the route. It is necessary to hold onto the top rung and lean backward on the ladder to ease the weight against the poles, which always lean away. With the other hand I reach in and pull out the accumulation. A wind always comes up at this moment and blows the dusty litter into my eyes, nose, and hair. Several boxes I found had been taken over by Deer Mice for winter homes, and I was not prepared to have one disturbed occupant scamper up my arm and about my neck before dropping to the ground.

The delight of the month was to hear the choir of Purple Finches from the hillside thickets. A lively tune, a happy and rich strain of continuous warbling. All visitors come back from their walks entranced with the experience of hearing these songsters. The 1st of March the Woodcocks were heard, and we dashed from the house as we do when geese "go over," to listen better to their ecstatic flight song. Enough of March, April is ahead with its whimsical weather, but really it is May that we await. That is the month when we crane our necks, strain our ears, and keep the eyes alert. Familiar songs of the warblers quickly come back to memory. This is the season when the beginner at bird watching—yes, even those who have been at it a while—need a friend along, someone who can point out what we ought to see and give us a tip or two. In the evening we can peruse bird books, but afiel a patient companion can best help the novice. This is how the Audubon trips help, the expert is glad to assist the bewildered beginner.

Why not plan a day at the Sanctuary in May? You may not record a long list, but the day will be filled with rewarding experiences. By that time we plan to have labels on many of the trees and shrubs, as well as educational signs at points of interest.

ELMER FOYE

**COOK'S CANYON.** The Phoebe, truest harbinger of spring, has made a late appearance over the pond at the canyon. Possibly there in seclusion before March 29, the bird made its first public appearance on that date. The first Kingfisher appeared in the same location on the same day. The plump red breasts of two Robins feeding from our neighbor's lawn are a heart-warming sight, which traditionally, if not as accurately, suggests that the earth is stirring for rebirth. The worms must be sweeter across the street; our lawn hasn't attracted any Robins yet.

The Killdeer which regularly returns to a field diagonally across the road from the Sanctuary hasn't appeared. His unforgettable note has been heard from the sky, but we prefer to know that he has settled permanently in his territory. Another spring phenomenon we're awaiting anxiously — what Aldo Leopold in *Sand County Almanac* so poetically calls the Sky Dance of the Woodcock. Is any sight or sound of spring more thrilling — especially if the observer can be close enough to see the bird settle back to earth after his spiralling?

Recently the Philip Heywoods brought us a cylindrical feeding station which has proved very popular with the Grackles and the Evening Grosbeaks returning on March 8 after an absence of two weeks. The Grosbeaks sit in a complete circle around the feeding tray, chattering and nodding as seriously as a delegation of U.N. diplomats in a round-table discussion.

With the 1954 lecture season past, we can reflect upon the enriching experiences it brought to us personally — the opportunity to meet and entertain the Hal Harrisons in February and Robert Hermes this month, as well as the chance to see some stimulating nature photography in "Atlantic Adventure," "Grass Forest," and "Bonaventure Diary." At this season the end of one activity hardly means a lull in the program — the engagement calendar is always full. During March two local organizations showed an increasing concern for conservation by calling the Sanctuary for talks and movies. More groups are signing for guided tours, more cars are spotted in the parking area.

DAVID R. MINER

**MOOSE HILL.** The sight of the first Robin — traditional symbol of spring — for a fleeting magical moment makes a birder of everyone. Even in the heart of the ornithologically ignorant or apathetic, the first Redbreast inspires a response that, by comparison, makes the second bird seem almost to suffer from ignominy. Among the many Robin "firsts" that invariably reach us during the early days of March, it would tax the ingenuity and resources of more than a committee of one to pick a fair winner — the Robin to which a clear title of being "first" could rightfully be assigned. We are quite happy to honor all the entries submitted, and to interpret the entire lot as a gratifying reminder that birds are indeed among the world's best-loved creatures. At the expense of being trite, one is pressed to say again that "one touch of Nature makes the whole world kin." And, by the same token, that makes every New Englander a potential member of that growing brotherhood of birders — the Massachusetts Audubon Society!

There were other firsts to reach our desk, telling us of eyes and ears alert to the arrival of a resurgent spring. Even before the vanguard of migrant birds appeared, the paths and open areas about the Sanctuary were dotted with miniature earthen mounds — conclusive proof that the lowly earthworms had resumed their role of improving the soil. Among those observers who delved into the local ponds for the first signs of spring was the contingent of former Moose Hill Day Campers that on the 13th brought in a collection of

caddis fly cases, ingenious bits of aquatic architecture, and a sampling of salamanders — the yellow-spotted ones. Other artful nature discoverers presented us with a catch of fairy shrimp — minute back-swimming crustaceans whose rhythmically moving plumes of gill-feet never fail to fascinate. We had to hesitate a bit when a jar of pond water containing numerous small swaying larval forms was brought in for identification. A volume slipped from a shelf of the Sanctuary library served to establish them as members of the family Simuliidae — better known to the rest of the world as pesky black flies. Subsequently, in swiftly running water, we found others of the same ilk, and so it seems that the current season will not be without its brief period of visitations from these irksome dipterons. Although solo performances of the first Hylas were reported in mid-February, the full chorus of Peepers did not get fully under way until the week of the 21st, when their welcome din proclaimed the advent of spring from every swamp and swale. The early evening of the 29th was highlighted by the first high-pitched tremolo notes of the awakening male Toads.

Other fragile-winged Spring Azure butterflies probably tried their wings before the first one that came to our attention on the final day of the month. At that date the check-list of the Sanctuary birder easily included among early migrants the Phoebe, Cowbirds, Mourning Doves, Green Herons, Catbirds, and Towhees. Early March saw a few of the handsome Fox Sparrows tarry for a day or two before moving on, while Tree Sparrows and trilling Juncos remained in numbers to the very end of March. First Bluebirds to arrive at the Sanctuary warbled from elms and red maples still tight with buds, but after mid-March their ecstatic notes sounded from boughs bursting with blossoms.

Here is a late bulletin on Lotor — the Raccoon that has volunteered to make Moose Hill his home for a period now only days short of a full year. It must be reported that Lotor's recently acquired habit of absenting himself from Sanctuary headquarters on an AWOL basis (first disclosed in the April *Bulletin*) has not changed appreciably and that his latest extraterritorial ventures have been protracted to three- and four-day periods. On one occasion it appeared that the masked "Lone Ranger" had severed completely his Sanctuary ties. Consideration was being given to the formation of a posse — one made up of his many friends and solicitous inquirers — but the truant's sudden and unexpected return obviated such plans. He chose to reappear at the unpropitious hour of 3:00 A.M. on a Monday morning. At least that was what the alarm clock indicated when a sleepy-eyed sanctuary director reluctantly rolled back the covers in response to a persistent scraping sound and accompanying whinny outside his bedroom door. Of course Lotor was promptly forgiven, and from the precipitously aroused household no returning prodigal was ever given a warmer welcome.

ALBERT W. BUSSEWITZ

PLEASANT VALLEY. The first week of March saw the arrival of our first Red-wings, Cowbirds, and Fox Sparrows. The Cowbird was almost a month earlier than any previous record for the Sanctuary. It was a banded individual that I recognized immediately as being one of my own, because of the color band used in addition to the aluminum band. Since that time a number of other banded Cowbirds have returned — all males, for the females don't come until almost a month after their mates. On the 24th the Ruffed Grouse — "the Thumper" — that drums a hundred yards from the cottage started up for the first time this year, and on the 26th the first Spring Peeper was heard calling all by himself on the beaver pond. The Barred Owls began to make themselves

heard near the end of the month. The last week of the month saw unusually large numbers of Robins in the fields, and there were always some in the stand of sumac back of the museum. Tree Sparrows are still here in force but find themselves in ever-increasing competition with Fox and Song Sparrows. Chipmunks seem to be out for the season.

On the fifteenth, when we were eating the evening meal at our kitchen table, we noticed a large bird silhouetted against the last flush of the evening sky before darkness closed down. It was a Ruffed Grouse feeding high up in an aspen. It was interesting to watch how carefully it walked out on one of the slender branches, like a tightrope walker. Step by step it cautiously "tiptoed" out. Then, with the utmost deliberation, it stretched its neck out toward a bud and plucked it with a quick snatch and a flip of its wings to regain its equilibrium. Then another and another. Then it turned around and as carefully retraced its steps. After venturing out on several other branches, it finally flew down into the yard and disappeared. This budding of aspens has been observed on several other occasions this spring.

Have you ever seen the courtship performance of the Woodcock and seen and heard it while giving its flight song? We have some singing grounds at the north end of the property which we visit every spring. This year I am trying to lure the Woodcocks to our front yard. Just below the Fernery there is a very flat circular area about the size of a baseball diamond. For years it has been densely overgrown with goldenrod. Off to one side a small brook bordered by alders and willow meanders on its way to the beaver ponds. This seems like ideal woodcock singing and breeding territory. The only barrier, at least the only one that can be readily observed, is the dense stand of goldenrod canes on the potential singing grounds. Woodcocks have been induced to take up residence in an area when a near-by singing ground has been made available. So this last month I completely cleared the goldenrod from this spot and disposed of it. Perhaps we may yet listen to the flight song of the Woodcock from the porch of the Sanctuary cottage.

On March 22 Robert Hermes presented "Bonaventure Diary" at the Berkshire Museum. Personally, I have seen a good many films on the Gaspé and Bonaventure, but never have I seen one which had such superb shots and such continuity. After that film one felt that he had really been to the Gaspé and was now familiar, not only with its birds and other wildlife, but with the people and their quaint customs. Mr. Hermes is to be congratulated on his fine presentation.

ALVAH W. SANBORN

ARCADIA. Flights of geese over Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary have proved over and over again that the Sanctuary is strategically located on an important migratory flyway. One such flight of Canada Geese was observed on March 29, when it was estimated that a flock of 220 flew over just before ten o'clock in the morning. With a southerly tail wind, the birds were flying high and fast, and "talking" to each other much less than they do when observed migrating on low-ceiling murky days, as so often is the case during their southerly flights. It was a good spring day, sunny and warm. The Robins were present in numbers, and the Bluebirds were singing their heads off. The wild calls of high-flying geese made complete the sum total of experiences. It really was spring.

Boldly patterned American Mergansers were present in Arcadia Marsh and the Oxbow all through March, as were goodly numbers of Black Ducks,



with a few Mallards, occasional Buffle-heads, and Hooded Mergansers. Professor Eliot and Davis Crompton recorded 30 Baldpates on March 20, the largest concentration ever for the Valley, according to Mr. Eliot. Several pairs of Wood Ducks were present from the 22nd, and toward the end of the month it was pairs of Black Ducks rather than flocks. That, too, is spring.

On two Sundays during the month, members of the Advisory Committee and friends formed work parties to build a bridgelike structure which will make possible a trail over part of our recently acquired land. With the aid of Dr. Trudeau's power saw, trees were cut which were encroaching on the arable land; others that were growing where the bridge had to be built also came down, as did several weak ones which were in competition with specimens worthy of living out a normal life. Some of this material was needed for timbers in the bridge, and these were moved directly into position, bolstered up by discarded railroad ties donated to the Sanctuary by the New Haven Railroad. This structure still has to be planked, and many other odd jobs have to be done before the trail can be opened. But already it is obvious that a different bit of habitat will eventually become available to our visitors. Crossing dark swamp waters, with tree trunks rising out of inky water to tower high overhead, the glint of a Prothonotary Warbler may be hoped for.

On the strength of a gift from a Friend of Arcadia, some new plants have been ordered for the wildflower and fern garden, and to add to our bird food varieties. Transplanting was begun from our own nursery to an area across the road from Headquarters which will be known as Peeper Pond Corner. A surprising find was that two crabapples still could not be dug because frost remained in the ground on March 27. Teddy Boulais, of South Hadley Falls, gave us a pink flowering dogwood for this area. Not content just to plant *this* tree, he and two friends ended by digging several more holes where other trees are to be set on arrival.

During the month, Professor Driver visited the Sanctuary with a group of his students in zoology and ecology. The Sanctuary's records and other materials dealing with our day camp were made available to Sue Lawrence, of Smith College, a physical education student doing a research project on day camp operations. On Saturday, March 27, the first scheduled field trip of the newly formed Holyoke Bird Club had a most successful visit at Arcadia under the leadership of Miss Marie Schurr. The Tree Swallows arrived in force that morning to help swell their bird list. Three dens of Cub Scouts visited on different afternoons, showing a lively interest in everything. There's never a dull moment for a den mother with eight or nine of these navy-blue-and-gold-uniformed wolf, bear, or lion cubs, not to mention the bobcats who have only recently joined the pack.

EDWIN A. MASON

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### The Berkshire Hills are Calling!

Whether you plan to visit our Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, go birding on Mt. Greylock or Mt. Everett or along the Housatonic, study wild flowers and ferns at Bartholomew's Cobble, or attend the Berkshire Music Festival, you should have in your pocket, besides your Peterson's *Field Guide*, a copy of Bartlett Hendricks' *Berkshire Birds* (published by this Society and available at Audubon House, Pleasant Valley, or the Berkshire Museum, for only fifty cents, postage five cents).

## From the Editors' Sanctum --- May, 1954

### "The Landscape That Flows"

Walter Prichard Eaton, our esteemed vice-president from the Berkshires, once wrote a delightful essay with the above title, describing some of the many interesting things an observant person can see from the windows of a moving train. Such glimpses are brief, it is true, and often exact identification of even near-by objects may be impossible, but a great deal may be seen besides scenery. Even daily commuting can have its passing excitements.

One morning early in April, as I waited for my train at the Cohasset station, a Flicker was calling in the distance, reminding me of John Burroughs' paraphrase of the Song of Solomon, "the call of the High-hole comes up from the wood." Herring Gulls were circling overhead, Starlings were carrying nesting material, and from the southwest appeared three Cormorants heading for the open sea. As the train gathered speed and the landscape began to "flow," I noticed pussy willows laden with pollen beside the tracks, skunk cabbages poking their horns up through the dead leaves, red and silver maples, elms and poplars in bloom, and spotted alders waving their long catkins. Near the Hingham station several large European alders exhibited their very different manner of growth from our native species, one tree having a diameter of perhaps eight inches. In the West Hingham cattails I watched (I couldn't hear it) a Red-wing "flute its o-ka-lee," and as we slowed for East Weymouth a pair of Black-crowned Night Herons were perched in an old oak above the Herring Run. Beyond Weymouth Heights a Great Blue Heron "froze" knee-deep in the water as the train rumbled past, several pairs of Black Ducks watched our passing, and a Kingfisher "wound up its reel" as it changed fishing locations. A Sparrow Hawk hovered over a mouse-infested meadow, and then we passed Fore River on the other side and noted Great Black-backed Gulls, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Golden-eyes. Beside the little mill pond on the Monantiquoit River at East Braintree a brown Screech Owl peered from a Flicker's hole, and a moment later I noted a plump Gray Squirrel hunting for nuts under a shagbark hickory. The tide was low as we crossed the Neponset River and observation was poor, but near Savin Hill a great raft of Scaups flashed their white sides in the sunlight. And as we slowed down for the South Station, more Herring Gulls were lazily sailing overhead.

Not a long list and no great rarities, though fairly typical perhaps. But much of the pleasure of bird-watching comes from the associations we recall to memory, each one bringing up its series of entertaining thoughts. That little Screech Owl brought back for a moment my comical schoolboy pets, Solomon and Minerva; amusing conversations with their big cousins the Barred Owls in New Hampshire and Florida; a Snowy Owl in June on the Gaspé; monkey-faced Barn Owls in an ancient church belfry in Connecticut. A "chain reaction" much more pleasing than the morning news of hydrogen bombs, reverses in Indo-China, and "muckartyisms." How many of my neighbors, heads buried in the morning paper, profited more from the fifty minutes' ride as they worried about the stock market with its up and downs, world affairs, and the weather? — I wonder!

And then the memories aroused, of other train trips! Masses of yellow lotus blooms in the dune country of Indiana about which Edwin Way Teale has written so interestingly; purple cone flowers across the prairies, and wild sunflowers; acres of Indian-blanket flowers in Montana; Lark Buntings on every fence-post; Yellow-headed Blackbirds; Magpies as we neared Denver; and an unforgettable sunrise near Mt. Shasta and a great flock of White Pelicans circling high above the valley, flashing in the sun as they maneuvered like a mass of overgrown shorebirds wheeling over a salt marsh.

I heartily recommend "the landscape that flows" to all travelers, regardless of the place or the distance to be covered.

J. B. M.

### News of Bird Clubs

The HARTFORD BIRD STUDY CLUB will conduct a Spring Bird Census, May 8-23, with fifteen groups participating. The annual meeting of the club will be held on Tuesday, May 11, and a feature of the evening will be the showing of the color movie "Your Valley — Your Future." Several field trips and outings are scheduled during the month.

### Natural Science and Conservation Workshop

**Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, Barre, Massachusetts, June 16-26**

Registrations are now being accepted for the Audubon Natural Science and Conservation Workshop, to be conducted at Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, Barre, Massachusetts, June 16-26. Resident fee for the ten-day period, \$60.00; day fee, \$32.00.

The Workshop Course is designed to provide practical guidance to leaders in conducting a nature program for camps, schools, playgrounds, and day camps. Emphasis is given to methods of making outdoor education adventure and fun for young people. All branches of natural science are drawn upon for program material. Projects planned relate to mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, rocks, stars, trees, soil, and water. In addition to Cook's Canyon Sanctuary, resources of the Harvard Forest, United States Soil Conservation Service, and Quabbin Reservoir are made available to the Workshop.

A limited number of partial and working scholarships will be granted to students requiring financial assistance. Application for such should be made in writing, stating qualifications of the applicant and reason for requesting scholarship.

For descriptive brochure, write Massachusetts Audubon Society, 155 Newbury Street, Boston 16.

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### News of Bird Clubs

The SOUTH SHORE BIRD CLUB has scheduled two Saturday field trips in May, the first, May 8, to "Flyway," with Robert Fox as leader, starting at 5:30 A.M., a half day trip, and a trip to areas for warblers and shore birds on May 15, led by George Wilson, starting at 7:30 A.M. and continuing all day. Trips leave from the parking space behind the Adams Academy, Quincy. Recorder for the club is Sibley Higginbotham, GRanite 2-8578.

A full schedule of May outings of the FORBUSH BIRD CLUB of Worcester includes the following: May 8, field trip, Olean Street to Girls Club, led by Mrs. Mitchell; May 9, field trip to Sterling, led by Mrs. Clara Brown; May 12, evening trip, Paxton tour, led by Mrs. Ethel Fleming; May 15, field trip to Lake Park, Worcester, led by Mrs. Wetherbee; May 19, evening trip to Tory Fort Lane, Worcester, led by Miss Mary Lou Winters and Miss Louise Sibley; May 22-23, week end field trip, camp, and cook-out at Cook's Canyon Lodge of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Barre, led by Miss Sibley and Miss Winters; May 26, cook-out supper at Gordon Smith's, Princeton.

The HOFFMANN BIRD CLUB of Pittsfield announces the following scheduled outings in May: May 8, Pittsfield and vicinity, starting at 8:00 A.M.; May 9, breakfast trip to Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, 8:00 A.M. to noon; May 15, Annual Century Run, with lunch at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary; May 23, Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls, 8:00 A.M. through lunch.

At the regular meeting of the STANTON BIRD CLUB of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine, Monday, May 3, John W. White will discuss "Some Relationships Between Birds and Agriculture" and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Gibbs will discuss "Food of Birds." On May 7 the club will sponsor the planting of a tree on the Bates College Campus by school children at 7:00 A.M. and a picnic breakfast on Mount David. There will be early morning walks on May 12 and May 19, and on Sunday, May 23, a picnic lunch at Stanton Bird Club Lodge, Woodbury Sanctuary.

The annual meeting of the WATERBURY NATURALIST CLUB is scheduled for Tuesday evening, May 18, at the Mattatuck Historical Society Building in Waterbury, Connecticut, and the annual banquet will be held at the Mill Plain Union Church on Thursday evening, June 3, when Rev. Joseph Swain, of Middletown, will present his picture symphony "The Rockies and Niagara."

The annual meeting of the ALLEN BIRD CLUB of Springfield will be held on Saturday, May 24, at the Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge. Field trips scheduled during the month include a trip to Robinson State Park on May 1, a bus trip to Saybrook, Conn., on May 8, a Chimney Swift Roosting trip on Wednesday evening, May 12, and a trip to Forest Park on May 22.

## BOOK REVIEWS

AMERICAN TREES. By Rutherford Platt. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. 1952. 256 pages. Illustrated, drawings and photographs. \$3.50.

In *American Trees* there is found the same enthusiasm and freshness of approach that brought to the author of *This Green World* and *Our Flowering World* an immediate and widespread recognition as one of this nation's outstanding nature photographers and writers. Platt's characterizations of trees covering all parts of the United States are completely devoid of any burdensome botanical nomenclature. They solicit the interest of the tree beginner as well as the more expert because of their impact on his everyday life, both from an esthetic and from a utilitarian standpoint. The author's genius as an interpreter of trees lies in his ability to translate the language and scientific facts of the botanist into words that make trees in the mind of the layman the important and marvelous creations that they really are. The factual details clothing his tree sketches are characterized by a certain crispness and verbal brevity and by a presentation that is always rich in expression, interest, and originality of observation.

*American Trees* departs from the usual approach of treating trees in a strictly botanical sequence or relationship and considers them on a regional distribution basis. This type of approach can safely be credited as a much more natural and satisfying one from the standpoint of the ordinary observer who commonly associates trees in their geographical rather than their botanical context. Relationships are, of course, always borne in mind but only in so far as they relate to the various areas defined in the plan of the book, such as the trees of the Middle West, South, Southern Florida, Northwest, California and the Southwest. The special appeal to the traveler-minded reader is obvious. Likewise does the size of the book (5 x 7½ inches) make it a guide of portable dimensions.

Considerable emphasis is given to what Platt calls the Great American Woods, comprising the trees east of the Rockies. Within this group there is raised to three-star rank what is described as the "fourteen keynote trees." Two- and one-star status is assigned to those trees that are considered especially important in the areas in which they occur. While this classification may appear somewhat arbitrary and subject to individual taste and judgment, the basis of this assignment of rank is undoubtedly sound and generally

acceptable. It serves the reader with a ready and reliable gauge to the relative importance of the many members of our tree flora.

Picture type keys are not without their serious limitations, but there is little doubt that the series of leaf and seed silhouettes found in the back of the guide will adequately serve its users as a quick and easily workable key to the identification of the large majority of our trees.

No small measure of the merits of the volume is attributable to the author's fine photographs of trees in their various aspects — skeletal outlines, foliage, flowers, bark, and buds. In addition to the forty pages of both black and white and color photographs there is an enhancing array of two hundred interesting and informative drawings by Margaret L. Cosgrove.

This is a book that cannot fail to make the reader more widely informed and more deeply appreciative of the trees that span our land.

ALBERT W. BUSSEWITZ

MAN AND WILDLIFE IN MISSOURI. By Charles Callison. The Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pa. 1953. 134 pages. Paper covers. \$1.00.

Here is a vivid account of the successful attempt to take the wildlife and forestry programs of the State of Missouri out of politics, which has served as a pattern for other States to follow. Mr. Callison's booklet opens with the reduction of natural resources as the land was settled, then discusses the battle against commercialism, the era of politics and restocking, the development of wildlife management and conservation, and the battle for the creation of an unpaid commission to administer Missouri's natural resources. This battle was never quite completed, for it had to be continually refought to prevent repeal of the laws which uphold the new type of administration.

The account outlines the steady growth of the conservation program, including information and education, and difficulties with forestry and river development policies. Finally, a look at the future is provided as the turn is made from emphasis on game raising and stocking to management of soil and cover. Problems of fire, pollution, and harmonizing agriculture with game management are well treated.

Since experience in Missouri has been a guide to the recent adoption of the unpaid commission form of administration for the Department of Natural Resources in Massachusetts, this book is particularly recommended for reading at this time.

C. RUSSELL MASON

## Reviews, cont.

WAVES AND TIDES. By R. C. H. Russell, M.A., and Cdr. D. H. Macmillan, R.N.R., F.R.I.C.S., A.I.N.A. Philosophical Library, Inc., New York. 1953. 348 pages. \$6.00.

The beginning of the first paragraph in the Foreword reveals clearly the tenor of the subject matter. It states: "While several writers on theoretical hydrodynamics have coupled the subjects of waves and tides, I think this is one of the first books in which they have been formally exhibited in their practical relations."

If you are deeply interested in the sea in all its phases, this book is well worth the struggle, as it contains a wealth of very interesting information, but it was not written for the amateur, as it is assumed that the reader has a working knowledge of navigation and higher mathematics.

This reviewer does not pretend that he read every word, or took the time to study many of the technical problems, but the many hours spent were both enlightening and rewarding.

RALPH LAWSON

AUDUBON GUIDES. By Richard H. Pough. Color Illustrations by Don Eckelberry and Line Drawings by Earl L. Poole. Doubleday and Company, Inc., New York. 1953. 664 pages. \$5.95.

The only objection we have had to the Audubon *Bird Guides* was the fact that they were issued in two volumes, which has sometimes made for inconvenience. This has now been overcome by combining the two volumes under the title *Audubon Guides*. The *Land Bird Guide* was reviewed by Ludlow Griscom in the *Bulletin* for December, 1946, and the *Water Bird Guide* by the present reviewer in the *Bulletin* for October, 1951.

A new Introduction has been provided for this combined Guide in which Mr. Pough emphasizes that knowing where to look for each kind of bird is half the trick of being an expert "birder." Consequently, special attention has been given in this volume to defining the type of area where each bird makes its home. He also mentions that with bird watching every trip from home will become an adventure, a scientific expedition in miniature, and that this study will develop a growing feeling of kinship with all living things.

The format of the original books has been continued in the combined volume, with the excellent color plates by Don Eckelberry in the middle of each section, and, for further convenience, the two sections — land and water birds — are separated by a heavy color page.

The information on bird habits is a real contribution to ornithological literature, as are also the tables on comparative sizes of various groups of birds, such as cranelike birds and waders.

Mr. Griscom's estimate of the first Pough volume will serve equally well to sum up the merits of the new combined volume: "Its ownership is of basic value to the would-be student of birds." Armed with Peterson's eastern and western *Guides* and Pough's *Audubon Guides*, the bird watcher is well-equipped for accurate identification.

C. RUSSELL MASON

NORTH: THE NATURE AND DRAMA OF THE POLAR WORLD. By Kaare Rodahl, M.D. Harper & Brothers, New York. 1953. \$3.50.

*North* is the subjective account of the camping experience of the veteran Arctic explorer Dr. Rodahl and two other men of the United States Air Force who lived for thirteen days on a tabular iceberg, larger than the island of Guam, which floats in the perpetual ice floes of the North Polar Basin close to the North Pole. Actually, a good half of the book is background material for understanding the purpose of the expedition and its hopes for information, fact-finding concerning Arctic weather conditions and the white man's preparations for best survival. This kind of approach makes a most acceptable introduction to geographic facts, which can be bone-dry. We are told that to understand man's place in the Arctic environment and the problems he faces, one must comprehend Arctic biology, geography, climatology, and even oceanography.

Chapters entitled "The Biology of the Polar Basin" and "Arctic Resources" provide the most natural science. The important point made is that the deep, landless North Polar Basin, in all seasons covered with ice, is a cold desert for wildlife. Although there are six species of seals in the Arctic, only two are recorded from the Polar Basin. It is on the peripheral region, particularly above and along the continental shelves of Eurasia and North America, that most wildlife occurs, areas, incidentally, increasingly being penetrated by man — a fact of importance to conservationists. The author feels that the impression held by most people is that Arctic mammals are generally dispersed, although he himself considers the fact from the point of view of human survival or the impossibility of large groups ever to "live off the land" in the North Polar regions.

ROBERT L. GRAYCE



## LOOKING AHEAD: SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

### MEETINGS AT AUDUBON HOUSE

#### Boston Malacological Club

May 4, 8:00 P.M.

#### Massachusetts Conservation Council

May 5, 2:00 P.M.

#### Massachusetts Audubon Society

May 7, Staff meeting, 9:30 A.M.

May 12, Board of Directors, 3:00 P.M.

#### Old Colony Bird Club

May 11, 25, 7:30 P.M.

### MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, STAFF LECTURES

May 3, Sassafras Bird Club, Amsterdam, N.Y.

May 8, Women's Educational and Industrial Union, Boston

### ADULT WORKSHOPS and COURSES

May 4, 11, 18. "The Three Kingdoms."

Continuation of Tuesday morning course. Introduction to Nature Study. Audubon House, 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. Miss Frances Sherburne, Leader.

May 5, 12, 19. Advanced Bird Identification Course. Continuation of course. Audubon House, Wednesday evenings, 7:30.

May 4, 11, 18. "The Three Kingdoms." Continuation of Tuesday evening course. An Introductory Adult Course in Nature Study. Audubon House, 7:30 P.M.

May 6, 13, 20. "The Web of Life." Continuation of Intermediate Natural Science Course. Audubon House, Thursday evenings, 7:30 P.M.

### AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

May 23. To Audubon sanctuaries north of Boston — Nahant, Marblehead Neck, and Ipswich River. Leave Audubon House, 8:15 A.M.

### AT AUDUBON SANCTUARIES

May 5, 12. Ipswich River Sanctuary. Continuation of Wednesday evening Bird Identification Course.

May 8. Open House at all Audubon Sanctuaries — Arcadia at Northampton; Cook's Canyon at Barre; Ipswich River at Topsfield; Moose Hill at Sharon; Pleasant Valley at Lenox. Special program at each. Conducted Walks.

May 18. Arcadia Sanctuary. State Federation of Garden Clubs.

May 25. Arcadia Sanctuary. Unitarian Laymen's League of Northampton and Florence.

May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12. Ipswich River Sanctuary. Saturday morning walks for all the family. 9:30.

### AUDUBON WEEK, May 2 - 8

Public Garden Walks, Boston, May 3-7 and May 10-14, 12:00 to 1:00. State-wide Bird Walks, May 8. Open House at all Audubon Sanctuaries, with special programs and conducted walks, May 8.

### CONNECTICUT VALLEY CAMPOUT, MAY 14 - 16

Headquarters at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton.

### BERKSHIRE CAMPOUT, JUNE 4 - 6

Headquarters at the Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield.

### AUDUBON TEACHERS CONFERENCE

June 6-8. Mt. Greylock.

### AUDUBON NATURAL SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

June 16-26. Cook's Canyon, Barre.

### SPRING MEETING, NORTH-EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

June 19. At home of Professor Lawrence B. Chapman, Princeton, Massachusetts.

## Credit Due Co-Operating Society

"A Simple Key to Wild Flower Families," published in the April, 1954, *Bulletin*, was secured through the courtesy of the New England Wild Flower Preservation Society, of which the author, Professor Stephen F. Hamblin, is a director. Reprints of this fine material may be purchased at ten cents a copy from the New England Wild Flower Preservation Society, Horticultural Hall, Boston, from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, or from our sanctuary directors.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

## Birding in Bermuda

"I was away March 20-27 on a short visit to Bermuda, going by boat and flying back . . . Bermuda birding interested me — because of the scarcity of species! Four common, resident species are: Bluebird, Cardinal, Catbird, and the "Bermuda" White-eyed Vireo — which has lost its white eye! I saw, also, 6-8 Myrtle Warblers and perhaps as many Yellow Palms. Also my first Yellow-throated Warbler, and my first European Goldfinch. English Sparrows are abundant, but I saw no Starlings, though the latter occur. I was interested to see a Kingfisher, and to find Sapsucker drill-holes. Saw just one Crow and one Herring Gull. Of water birds, I saw 8 Coot, a pair of Blue-winged Teal, and a Ruddy Duck. Also, one Bittern. . . Louis Mowbray told me that he and John Kieran saw eight species of warblers, including Prairie, Hooded, Worm-eating and Parula, a few days before I arrived. I was pleased to see the Bermuda 'Long-tails' (Yellow-billed Tropic-birds). You will see it represented on the enclosed Bermuda stamp." Holyoke, Mass. Aaron M. Bagg

## Raccoon Raider

"You may be interested in my experience with a Raccoon here on the mountain. There has been a regular scourge of Red Squirrels here — Grays as well. I have a large wire trap in which I have been catching them and transporting them to other woods a few miles off. I did the same for a Flying Squirrel which strayed into the trap and was curled up in a tight ball in the morning.

"One morning the trap was gone. I found it some distance off on the lawn upside down with the nuts and peanuts gone and the little back opening torn off. It seemed probable that this had been done by a coon, as they are very clever with those little black hands.

"On Sunday night at two thirty there was a loud clatter and bang on the south piazza. . . I swung the beam of my flashlight about the floor but saw nothing. Both sides of this piazza are protected in winter with tall double windows. On top of the frame of one I had put a large dab of peanut butter. Hanging by his little black hands on the upper frame of the window was a good-sized Raccoon, his body suspended against the glass. He was pulling himself up and gobbling the peanut butter, then relaxing to enjoy the flavor. Then once more he would 'chin' himself and take a bite and again relax. When he realized he was being watched he dropped

quickly and scuttled away. . . He had also extracted the suet from the larger of two holders made of hardware cloth by pressing the square piece of wire on the bottom together, and inserting his hand and arm. I am getting a large 'Hav-a-hart' trap to catch and carry him off also. Left to his own devices he will be a continual nuisance, eating a good share of the bird food daily. Moreover they love a vegetable garden — horrid thought!" Lee, Mass. Ruth I. Derby

Pleasure and Profit from *Bulletin*

" . . . I hope I have your wonderful magazine as long as I live. For the last two years I have been bedridden a good part of the time, much of this time being spent reading your *Bulletin*, both new and old, as I am selfish enough to have kept all my back numbers, for rereading whenever I have been ill, and always find something well worth repeating to others who can make use of the many wonderful things relating to anything in nature, especially birds. I read them over and over, and each year the magazine grows better and better. Of all the magazines I have, I get the most practical ideas for bird feeding from the *Bulletin* of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

"You may remember that it was I who founded the Mt. Desert Island Bird Club in 1933 . . . myself being president for twelve years, with Mrs. Lewis then taking over, who is still in office. . . "

Bar Harbor, Me. (Mrs.) Effie M. Anthony

A Former  
Audubon Teacher Writes

"We live only two miles from a 2000-acre reservation (in New Jersey). Jim Baird is doing his Ph.D. work on the ecology of this reservation. Several of my neighbors are interested in going on spring bird walks with Jim. We carried the Massachusetts Audubon Society's "Operation Christmas Tree for the Birds" into New Jersey. We tied our tree to the pear tree in the back yard and were richly rewarded. We had a dozen different species at once during the January big snow. Besides the usual kinds, we also had a Towhee. We tried the recipe for "chickadee pudding" and found it very popular, not only with Chickadees, but with Tree Sparrows, Titmice, and Juncos as well.

"The *Bulletins* make good reading when a cold keeps one in bed. They are truly as good as many of the nature books on the market."

Berkeley Heights, N. J.

Evelyn Bergstrom Melack

## Correspondence, cont.

### Another Christmas Census Memory

"I am one who has pleasant recollections of *Bird-Lore's* Christmas Census. The only one reported by me was the 23rd, in *Bird-Lore*, 1923. I told of going part way with horse and sleigh. As soon as it was printed, a man in Pennsylvania wrote he noticed we had a horse so we must have a barn. He was making a study of beetles found near the grain and would give me a dollar for a certain number. So, out to the barn I went with a small tin box . . . There were black beetles in the chaff around the grain barrels. Soon they were on their way and by return mail came a dollar bill.

Edward Howe Forbush, who was writing his *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* at that time, sent a notice to all his observers that help was needed . . . to pay for another assistant. That was the use made of the 'bug' dollar."

South Sudbury, Mass. Lottie M. Smith

*Editorial Footnote.* In 1923 your Associate Editor was conducting the Winnetaska Camps in New Hampshire and during the fall lull in camp activities was appointed as a temporary assistant to Mr. Forbush, and thus probably became the beneficiary of the "bug" dollar described above. Later he became Mr. Forbush's successor and "inherited" as correspondents many keen bird observers, among whom he remembers Miss Lottie M. Smith. J. B. M.

### A Note From Great Britain

Dear Mr. Mason: I wish to report the arrival of the wonderful Kodachrome slides which I am exhibiting this week at Eton College. It is very kind of you and makes me remember with pleasure my talk to the Massachusetts Audubon Society last year.

(Later) The slides were shown and rapturously received at Eton College, whose Scientific Society was delighted to hear of the Audubon activities in U. S. A. I wish ornithological societies in both countries could be brought into closer relations. Any suggestions on your side? I would always be glad to act on them. Yours, sincerely, London, England Shane Leslie

### "Kuif-eend-je" Comes to Massachusetts

While reading Professor Eliot's article about the Tufted Duck in the March *Bulletin*, it slowly came to me that this duck probably was the same duck we called *Kuif-eend-je*, Little Tufted Duck, back in Holland. One look in my Dutch bird guide confirmed me.

Then I started to remember:

One misty morning I was on a nature

walk with some of my friends of the Netherlands Nature-history Society along the dike of the "Zuiderzee" north of Amsterdam (Amsterdam being my home town). It was a very, very quiet morning as we were waiting for the fog to lift. When the fog lifted, we slowly started to discover the flocks of ducks in the water, and when the sun came through we could see the beautiful white sides on some of the small ducks. One of my friends explained to me the name of the ducks, as at that time I was just starting to get interested in bird watching. These were the first Tufted Ducks I saw, nine or ten years ago!

I did see more flocks of these ducks on later walks along the dike but don't recall having seen any on inland lakes, although they do occur there.

How eager and pleased I was to see the Tufted Duck in Marshfield — why, it even gave a call when we fed it on this year's first day of spring. Was it just as much pleased to see so many Audubon members as I was when I came to America some six years ago?

Queer how a Tufted Duck can bring back so many happy thoughts and memories!

N. Weymouth, Mass.

Mini Nonkes

### "I Flew to Meet the Birds"

Providing myself with Peterson's *Field Guide to Western Birds*, I took a plane from Boston at 10 P. M. and was on the California desert the next afternoon ready to meet some western birds.

The first one of these strangers I met was a Black Phoebe, which looked something like our Slate-colored Junco but did not have the white tail feathers or pink feet, and which acted very differently, like the other flycatchers. Since then I have seen many Say's Phoebes as well as the tiny gnatcatchers and hummingbirds.

The canyons and desert have much of the red-berried mistletoe, and that is where I see the Phainopepla, a black bird about the size of a tanager, who wears a smart little black topknot. The Cactus Wren comes to the yard for crumbs. It is larger than the Carolina Wren and has a rather raucous call. The little Rock Wren is to be found only on the sides of rocky hills running and darting in and out of the layers of the rocks which abound in the hills and mountains that surround this desert land. They were almost the only birds I saw on a camping trip into the volcanic region below the Salton Sea. In that region I saw a Golden Eagle soaring with a smaller bird chasing it.



### Correspondence, cont.

There are several different linnets out here, and they are now singing much as our Purple Finch will be in a short time. The White-crowned Sparrow (subspecies?) sings here about the house and yard more than I have ever heard them in Massachusetts.

While in a lovely canyon this week I was walking up the stream looking for one of John Muir's Water Ouzels (which I did not find), and I saw a Hermit Thrush, a Myrtle Warbler, and a russet-crowned sparrow which I did not know, also a small sparrowlike bird with a greenish crown. A flock of Robins and one of Mountain Bluebirds were in the canyon. On a beautiful trip over the mountains we saw the very dark blue jay (Steller's) and a herd of twelve deer.

At San Juan Capistrano the wall of the ruins of the old mission have many nests of the Cliff Swallow, but I was too early to see the returning birds.

The air is full of the songs of Mockingbirds and smaller birds these mornings. The Mockers come to my tray for raisins and nuts several times a day. I find it very difficult to identify the many small birds I see as they dart into the thick foliage of the trees and shrubs.

We are now awaiting the pageant of the desert in bloom. It is just opening with the verbena, small primrose, encelia, and a tiny white forgetmenot. When the cacti and many flowering shrubs bloom it will surely be Paradise!  
Cathedral City, California

Edna F. Sayward

### A Summary of March Birds

A second TUFTED DUCK, this time on the South Shore, was seen March 5 in Marshfield by Miss Louise Pratt and Mrs. Lawrence Romaine. Many people enjoyed a close view of this bird and Arthur W. Argue and William B. Long succeeded in securing excellent pictures of it. According to other observers, the bird had been present since December but unidentified.

PIED-BILLED GREBES were seen on March 2 and heard calling on the 20th. Of the fresh-water ducks, the WOOD DUCKS were reported in very small numbers, PINTAIL in good numbers, and BLUE-WINGED TEAL few and late; 2 EUROPEAN WIDGEONS were reported and a flock of 100 BALDPATES at South Dartmouth; there were good numbers of RING-NECKED DUCKS at Halifax and Pittsfield (Pontoosuc Lake). Three GAD-WALLS at Nantucket, BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE at Manomet and Uxbridge, and one in Burlington, Vermont; 2 HARLEQUIN reports and one KING EIDER at Little Boar's Head, New Hampshire (Hatches), with another at Westport Point (Clement), added zest to the waterfowl list.

Mrs. Hervey Elkins tells us that the hawk flight on the whole was very good. Her total for the month was over 300, while Mrs. Cora Wellman recorded 206 in the Sudbury Valley alone. The RED-SHOULDER count was very good, but the Accipiters were down. March 19, with a southerly wind, was the best day. The weather, March 20 through 22, was poor, but on the 24th it improved and on that day she saw 44 individuals. TURKEY VULTURES

were reported from S. Egremont, Sheffield (where 29 were seen March 28), and Chestnut Hill.

White-winged gulls continued along the coast and an ICELAND was seen at Burlington, Vermont, March 13-28. A LITTLE GULL appeared at Newburyport on March 14 (Barry), and as many as 5 EUROPEAN BLACK-HEADED GULLS were counted there, March 21; 1 LAUGHING GULL was seen at Nantucket on March 3 (Crompton). Three BLACK GUILLEMOTS were present at Rockport, March 21. A RAZOR-BILLED AUK was sitting on a dune at NAUSET, March 28; it was flushed and watched flying out over the ocean. As many as 5 SNOWY OWLS were seen at Plum Island, March 20, and 4 were still present at Squantum Air Base, March 17. Two YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were at Marblehead on March 31, and a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER in Adamsville, R. I., March 12 and 25. An EASTERN KINGBIRD in Cambridge, March 18 (Shedd), and a CRESTED FLY-CATCHER in Townshend, Vermont, March 31, were certainly early arrivals. The Flycatcher was feeding on insects around the foundation of a house and well seen. PHOEBES were late arriving but after March 24 were reported from 40 different localities. TREE SWALLOWS increased at the end of the month, and 2 PURPLE MARTINS were seen at North Scituate, March 20 (Higginbothams). The general arrival of ROBINS was March 20-28; BLUEBIRDS were very poor in numbers and late in arriving; a BROWN CREEPER was heard singing at South Hanson Swamp on March 27. Two good-

sized flocks of PIPITS were reported at the end of the month. The Brookline Bird Club reported a mixed flock of blackbirds seen in Essex County, March 20, but no females were noted to the end of the month; RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were slow in arriving. Two male CARDINALS have been seen in Milton, and the Middleboro bird is still present. The BLACKHEADED GROSBIRD is the rarity of the month, and we are able to report two; one is at New Canaan, Connecticut, and the other at Annisquam. Both were first seen in January. Many people have seen both birds, and the Annisquam bird was photographed by John E. Walsh. An INDIGO BUNTING was seen at Block Island, R. I., on March 23; a DICKCISSEL was at Miss Louisa Hunnewell's feeder in Wellesley from March 11 on; scattered reports have been received of EVENING GROSBIRDS in flocks up to 30 birds; 25 PINE GROSBIRDS at Kelsey's Nurseries in Boxford, March 6 (Vaughan); 1 COMMON REDPOLLS in Wellesley, March 6 (Freeland); one flock of 25 PINE SISKINS at W. Becket, and no Massachusetts reports of CROSSBILLS; a singing FIELD SPARROW in North Attleboro, March 28; a wintering WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW in Concord, at a feeder throughout March (Bolton), and another in N. Grafton, March 20 (Pfeif); scattered reports of FOX SPARROWS throughout the

month, but no large flocks; 4 singing SWAMP SPARROWS at S. Hanson Swamp, March 27.

CANADA GEESE were in full migration, and about 1500 could be seen at Newburyport the latter part of the month. BRANT were reported from 12 localities. 1 WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was first seen at Newburyport, March 27. 600 SNOW GEESE were seen at Brewster, March 9 (Hill), and on the morning of March 30, after snow and sleet storms to the south and west, SNOW GEESE were reported from Bedford (100), Ipswich (150), Concord (39), Lincoln (85), Beverly (20), Danversport (40), Newburyport (400), and Pittsfield (17). By afternoon the Newburyport flock had been joined by another group and the total reached 1000; 2 BLUE GEESE were in the flock and offered a challenge to the keen observers.

On March 28 our Audubon Field Trip was scheduled for Sudbury Valley, and the weather was very favorable. Several species of waterfowl were observed, 8 WILSON'S SNIPES, 8 PIPITS, MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS, and FOX SPARROWS were among the migrants. Richard Borden met the group at his home and conducted a tour of the Concord Wildlife Refuge area.

RUTH P. EMERY, *Editor*

*Records of New England Birds*

### Field Notes

Information from our fellow member F. W. Gade of Lundy, Bristol Channel, England, indicates that, in addition to the AMERICAN ROBIN listed on Lundy last year, other North American species are also crossing the North Atlantic, to balance the Tufted Duck and the European gulls that have visited us recently. *British Birds* for October, 1953, reports a RED-EYED VIREO which was found dead at Tuskar Rock off County Wexford, Eire, evidently killed by striking the lighthouse. The item mentions that Roger Peterson has agreed to prepare color illustrations of this bird and the American Robin, to be published soon. Mr. Gade also tells us that a GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was recently identified in Fair Isle, one of the most northerly of the Shetland group, by Warden Kenneth Williamson, an authority on the influence of weather on the migratory drift of certain species out of their usual routes.

The Brookline Bird Club reports an AMERICAN BITTERN in the Sudbury Valley, April 10. Six species of ducks were also seen, seven species of hawks including an OSPREY, one WILSON'S SNIPES, one HERMIT THRUSH, only four BLUEBIRDS, a YELLOW PALM WARBLER,

and one MEADOWLARK; in all a total of 47 species was observed.

A RUSTY BLACKBIRD was seen in Orleans, Mar. 7, by Dr. Norman Hill. On the 9th he saw 1000 BRANT in Brewster and a flock of 600 GREATER SNOW GEESE.

Also on Cape Cod, William B. Long reported 2 PIPING PLOVERS, 22 BRANT, and 3 GRAY SEALS at Nauset.

Thomas F. Messinger, of Braintree, responded promptly to what he termed our "light twitting of the membership . . . for not making with the Field Notes" and sent us several interesting items, including, for Mar. 19, a pair of BROWN CREEPERS near Pond Meadows, about 20 COWBIRDS near a feeder, and about 30 "SNOW-BIRDS," or JUNCOS.

From Glastonbury, Conn., March 13, Raymond G. Clark reported a TUFTED TITMOUSE and a CAROLINA WREN which have been at his feeders daily since December, the former feeding on peanut butter and sunflower seeds, the latter on peanut butter and suet. He also reports several WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS, 5 BLUEBIRDS, and a ROBIN, but no Cardinal this winter.

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### Field Notes, cont.

From January 16 to date (April 14) a **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** has been appearing daily at the home of Mrs. Rayne Adams in Annisquam. It is a male bird in excellent plumage and has been observed by a great number of people in recent weeks, since its identity was established and its presence noised about. That Massachusetts is becoming a mecca for birds which gather there from all directions, knowing that they will be recognized and appreciated, is shown by the recent experiences of a Worcester observer, who in one week saw a Tufted Duck, presumably a straggler from Europe; an American Egret from the Deep South; a Black-headed Grosbeak from the Rockies or farther west; and a great flock of Snow Geese en route to lands north of the Arctic Circle. Massachusetts Audubon Society members do not need to travel; the birds come to them! Cattle Egrets, Painted Buntings, Western Tanagers, Bullock's Orioles, Manx Shearwaters, or what have you? Joseph Grinnell is quoted as saying that in time every species on the A. O. U. Check-List would appear in California; Massachusetts might go him one better and include most European species.

Miss Alice A. Bristow sent us a timetable, very well worked out, of the **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** which has been coming to her feeding station in New Canaan, Conn. This record was kept for over a month, from Feb. 20 to March 23. The bird was absent only a few days during that period, and at times it made as many as eleven trips a day, ranging usually from a brief visit to a stay of fifteen minutes. In addition to the sunflower seeds usually taken, on Mar. 8 and 9 it sipped maple sap for several minutes at a time. On March 27 the record showed that fifty-three people had been at Miss Bristow's home to see this rare visitor from the West. It occasionally visits a feeder about four miles from Miss Bristow's, and another about half way between these two.

Two **FOX SPARROWS** visited the home of Mrs. Jephtha Wade in Bedford, March 14. A flock of about 15 **ROBINS** was there, Mar. 8, and a male **MARSH HAWK**.

An **AMERICAN EGRET** was seen in Worcester, April 1, by Mrs. Gordon H. Smith, and the next day it was watched by several other birders.

Miss Dorothy Manning tells us that on March 15, while driving in Wellesley, a large white **SWAN** was walking slowly down the middle of the road holding up traffic on both sides.

A **BROWN PELICAN**, a very rare but unmistakable visitor in New England, was

observed at Sakonnet Point, R. I., April 10-11, as reported by Malcolm Oakes.

Mrs. James R. Downs, of South Londonderry, Vermont, writes us that this year the **BLUEBIRDS** arrived before the **ROBINS**. On April 7, Flickers, Phoebe's, Kinglets, Palm Warblers, Tree Swallows, Chipping Sparrows, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker appeared there.

Dr. John B. May records that, while en route to see the **SNOW GEESE** at Newburyport, he observed about 25 **AMERICAN BRANT** in the shallow water beside the Wollaston Boulevard; they flushed and flew north parallel to the roadway and were timed at just thirty miles per hour against a strong head wind. The next day Dr. May saw 25 **CANADA GEESE** at North Scituate, 3 **PINTAILS** at North River, Scituate, a female **HOODED MERGANSER** in a pond in Plymouth, fifty or more **SANDERLINGS** at Manomet, and 3 **DOWITCHERS** on the Dike Meadows in Marshfield.

The visitation of **GREATER SNOW GEESE** this year has been phenomenal, surpassing anything within the memory of the oldest inhabitant! As noted above, Dr. Hill saw 600 on Cape Cod, March 7, but the real flight did not occur until the end of the month. Richard T. May reported about 50 flying over Jackson, N. H., March 29; the next day two flocks of about 75 each were reported at Ipswich, and other reports began coming in from the Merrimack River below Newburyport, until the gathering there was estimated conservatively at 1000 birds. For the next few days Audubon staff members were kept extremely busy answering calls about these unusual and striking visitors, or passing the word along to other enthusiasts, and probably hundreds of bird watchers from several States gathered at the Joppa Flats and near Plum Island Sound to see the "White Wavies," as they are known in the North. With the Snow Geese were at least two **BLUE GEESE** and one **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**, and of course many **CANADA GEESE**.

**HAWKS** to the number of 206 were observed in the Sudbury Valley in March by Mrs. Cora Wellman. This number included 155 Red-Shouldered Hawks, 11 Red-tails, 19 Sparrow Hawks, 12 Marsh Harriers, 5 Sharp-shins, 3 Cooper's, and 1 Goshawk. March 19 was her best day for **HAWKS**, with 63, 52 of which were Red-shoulders; March 29 supplied 30 Red-shoulders; March 26, 21 of them.

Three **PIPING PLOVERS** were found at Acoaxet, March 18, by Mrs. A. F. Williston and party, and on March 27 William B. Long saw two at Nauset.



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### Field Notes, cont.

Two VIRGINIA RAILS were heard calling at Lynnfield Marsh April 10, by Miss Eleanor Barry and party. A KING RAIL was noted in Forest Park, Springfield, April 3 and 4, by Mrs. Phinney, of the Allen Bird Club.

Horatio du Mont, of East Brewster, found a WOODCOCK on its nest of four eggs about March 23.

Seven PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were seen at Newburyport, April 10, by Mrs. Leland Strickland and friends.

Mrs. Grace Barth reports a DOWITCHER, first seen at Blunt Park, Springfield, March 20.

Two GREAT HORNED OWLS were reported seen in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, March 24 and 25, by Officer Erickson. On March 25 Mrs. A. F. Williston, with Miss Barbara Proctor and Mrs. Ralph L. Hentershee, found a Great Horned Owl on its nest in Little Compton, R. I., and on the same day located another on its nest in Tiverton, R. I.

One SNOWY OWL was still present at Newburyport, April 11.

A male and a female YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER were seen in Marblehead, March 31, and again, April 5, by Donald Strickland.

Our first PHOEBE report to reach the office came from Mrs. J. A. Erickson in Wellesley, March 26. Five minutes later Robert L. Shewell, of Milton, reported a Phoebe just arrived at his home. Following our news release about the Phobes, Miss Anna F. Elliott, of Tyngsborough, wrote us that they are offering prizes for new shelves put out for Phoebe nest-sites (and occupied) on the same basis as bird-houses.

Miss Edith M. Smith, of Orleans, writes us that a CHICKADEE with *entirely white* tail feathers returned to her feeders this year, after having spent the winter of 1952-53 in the same locality.

HOUSE WRENS arrived in Stow at the home of Mrs. E. B. Hald on April 12.

An *albino* ROBIN has appeared near the home of Miss Viola Dangelmayr in Waltham, evidently the same bird which was seen there last summer.

A HERMIT THRUSH was seen and also heard singing in Weston, April 8, by Professor Charles Schweinfurth.

A BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was seen on Plum Island, April 11, by P. William Smith and his father. One was also observed in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, April 12, by Norman Harris, of the Museum of Science staff.

A RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET was singing in Concord, April 11, when Mrs. Hervey Elkins also recorded 3 PINE WARBLERS.

George Benedict, of Cohasset, noted a YELLOW PALM WARBLER at his home, April 3.

The interest aroused by the number of Orioles which have stayed in New England in recent winters, and the incursion of Bullock's Orioles from the West, makes appropriate a quotation from the Natural History Society of the Island of Jamaica, in which a male BALTIMORE ORIOLE, recorded at Kingston, Jamaica, February 14, 1953, was said to be the first record of this species for that island, although it is of rare occurrence in Cuba in the spring.

Miss Louisa Hunnewell reports a DICK-CISSEL which has been coming to her Wellesley feeder since March 11.

Frederick H. Curtis called to report a COMMON REDPOLL in Dover, April 9.

An *albino* JUNCO has been present at the home of Dr. John D. Houghton in Newton Centre since January and was still there on March 23.

Davis Crompton sends us his usual much-appreciated list of mammals seen during March, which includes a JACK RABBIT (introduced) at Nantucket, March 3, and a VARYING HARE still in white winter pelage at Dana, March 6. He added a WOODCHUCK at Holyoke, March 24, and a total of ten WHITE-TAILED DEER seen during the month.

Miss Lottie Smith, of South Sudbury, tells us that her first WOODCHUCK appeared on March 14, "before the rain changed to snow."

Edward Marsh reports seeing a fine male RED FOX in Millis, March 30.

Another OTTER in Canton was noted on March 24 by Henry S. Forbes.

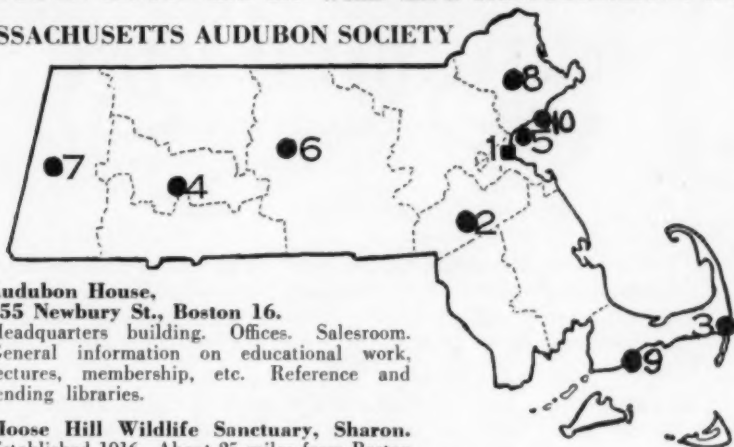
### Errata

In Mrs. Sayward's letter on page 128 of the March *Bulletin*, we made a grievous boner when we miscalled a Red-tailed Hawk a "Broad-tailed Hawk." As the farmer's boy said when he saw the Giraffe, "There ain't no sich animal."

And then two pages later, in a review, we called Edwin Way Teale's book *The Circle of the Years*, instead of "The Seasons." We apologized to Mr. Teale and he replied, classing us with the meticulous *Christian Science Monitor*, which made a somewhat similar error, and he also said his publishers had a request for "North with the Sparrows" which they filled with *North with the Spring*. So we felt better.

THE EDITORS

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1. **Audubon House, 155 Newbury St., Boston 16.**  
Headquarters building. Offices. Salesroom. General information on educational work, lectures, membership, etc. Reference and lending libraries.
2. **Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Sharon.**  
Established 1916. About 25 miles from Boston near Providence Pike. 250 acres mixed woodland. Small pond. Museum. Nature Trails. Albert W. Bussewitz, Resident Director.
3. **Tern Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Chatham.**  
Established 1936. 10 acres sand and beach grass. Large colony of nesting terns. Management, O. L. Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham.
4. **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton.**  
Established 1944. 300 acres meadow, marsh, and woodland. Nature Trails. Memorial and experimental plantings. Studio workshop. Edwin A. Mason, Resident Director.
5. **Nahant Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary, Nahant.**  
Established 1948. 4 acres. On Atlantic Flyway. Hordes of migrating land birds in spring and fall. Trails.
6. **Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, Barre.**  
Established 1948. 35 acres. Coniferous plantation. Small pond. Rocky gorge. Interesting trails. Site of Natural Science Workshop for leaders and resident and day camps for boys and girls. David R. Miner, Resident Director.
7. **Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Lenox.**  
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8. **Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield, Wenham and Hamilton.**  
Established 1951. 2000 acres. On Ipswich River. Extensive marshland with islands. Great variety introduced trees and shrubs. Elmer P. Foye, Resident Director.
9. **Sampson's Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Cotuit.**  
Established 1953. 16 acres sand and beach grass, nesting place of terns.
10. **Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Marblehead.**  
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